

Dear Neighbor,

I'd like to urge everybody to take advantage of the opportunity to order free rapid antigen COVID-19 testing kits that will be shipped at no cost to households that request them by the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) starting late this month.

Four free rapid testing kits will be sent to each residential address on request. Persons may order them from USPS online at www.Covidtests.gov.

I'd like to thank the Grandview and South Kansas City Chambers of Commerce for approving the recommendation of their Joint Government Affairs Committee to make passage of Blair's Law one of their top 2022 state legislative priorities.

I have re-introduced this legislation (House Bill 1568) which almost passed last year to make celebratory gunfire and any other unjustified discharge of firearms with criminal negligence within or into city limits a serious state offense. It is named after 11-year-old Blair Shanahan Lane who died after being struck here by celebratory gunfire on July 4, 2011. Its passage also is supported by the City of KCMO and the Kansas City Police Department.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank Geoff Hall for all his work as president of Wayside Waifs for the last eight years. His last day at the

organization's no-kill adoption campus in our area will be February 11 since he has accepted the job of general curator at the Como Park Zoo & Conservatory in St. Paul, Minnesota.

During his tenure at Wayside Waifs, the organization completed over \$9 million in capital improvements at its 50-acre campus at 3901 Martha Truman Rd., including a new Canine Behavior Center and an expanded Education & Training Center. It cares for over 6,000 animals a year.

Best of luck to this great organization in finding a new president who will be as caring and effective.

# To see all the animals available for adoption please visit <u>www.WaysideWaifs.org</u>.

During a recent tour of the Jefferson City Correctional Center with six of my House colleagues, I took the opportunity to talk for a while with Bobby Bostic, a once young offender who was sentenced to 241 years in prison for robbing a group of people and participating in a carjacking one night in 1995 when he was 16 and accompanied an older youth who later admitted he instigated the crimes.

Bostic's sentences were imposed consecutively, so he would not have been eligible to even apply for parole unless he lived to be 112 years old. He was serving the longest sentence in Missouri given to a juvenile for a non-homicide.

After hearing of Bostic's case and similar cases of numerous young offenders in Missouri sentenced to lengthy prison terms, I offered an amendment to a bill that was passed and signed into law by the governor last year to allow young offenders to apply for parole after imprisonment for 15 years if they were sentenced to imprisonment for 15 years or more for an offense or multiple offenses committed when they were under 18. It does not apply to young offenders convicted of first degree or capital murder.

After its passage, Bostic wrote me noting he had heard from many incarcerated persons from throughout the state who committed crimes as youth who were grateful for its passage.

# "Words cannot say how grateful we are," Bostic wrote. "It gives us a second chance that some of us did not have."

His parole hearing was in November, and he was represented by the retired circuit judge who sentenced him and had become one of his strongest advocates. None of his victims opposed his parole, and some had written letters supporting his release.

#### His parole was granted on December 13, and he is scheduled to be released late this year after completing courses to ease his transition back into society after being imprisoned for over a quarter of a century.

I appreciate the strong bipartisan support my amendment received, especially from Republican Representative Nich Schroer and Democratic Senator Barbara Anne Washington who had previously introduced similar legislation.

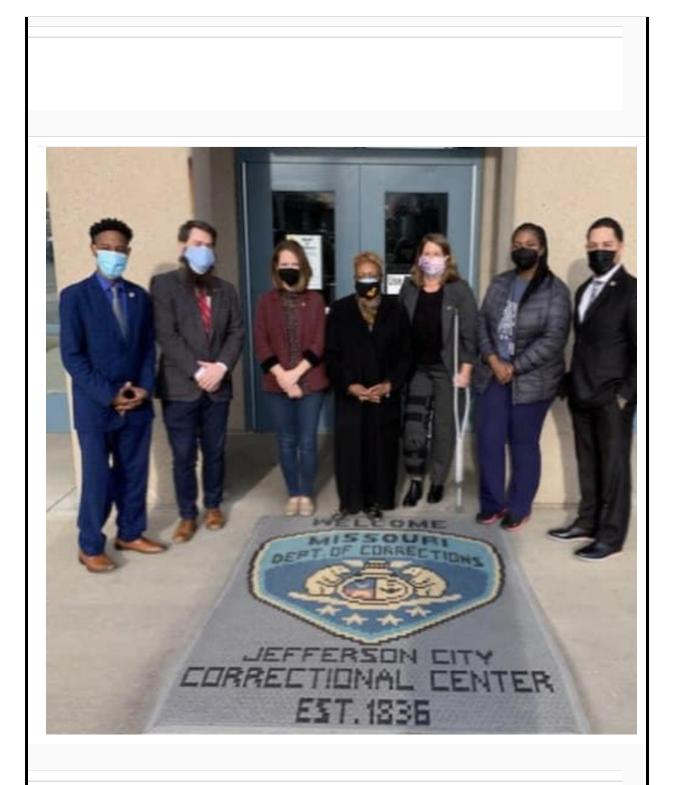
If anyone would like to contact me about legislation they would like me to introduce or support or legislation they would like me to oppose, please email me at <u>Mark.Sharp@house.mo.gov</u>.

Email is probably the best way to reach my office. If you are unable to quickly reach me, my legislative aide <u>Kaylee Bauer</u> 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 recently joined six of my House colleagues to tour the maximum/medium security Jefferson City Correctional Center and have one-on-one conversations with both staff and inmates. The sprawling 42-acre facility has a staff of over 600 persons who are assisted by numerous volunteers and houses nearly 2,000 inmates. I am on the right.

# **WEEKLY CAPITOL UPDATE** Friday, January 21st, 2022

#### GOVERNOR PROPOSES STATE BUDGET

With Missouri flush with unprecedented general revenue surpluses and federal relief funds, Gov. Mike Parson on Jan. 19 proposed a \$46.72 billion state operating budget for the upcoming 2023 fiscal year which begins July 1.

The governor's plan would increase total spending by more than onethird over the \$34.96 billion lawmakers so far have authorized for FY 2022 which ends June 30.

Although general revenue spending would increase by a robust \$1.63 billion under the governor's plan, the bulk of the additional revenue – \$9.23 billion – comes from federal funds. Parson outlined his proposed budget, along with his policy priorities for the 2022 legislative session, during the annual State of the State address before a joint session of the Missouri General Assembly.

Although not mentioning it during his speech, Parson's budget calls for fully funding the state's recently expanded Medicaid program both for the remainder of FY 2022 and all of FY 2023.

A constitutionally mandated expansion of Medicaid eligibility approved by Missouri voters took effect last summer, but legislative opponents refused to provide full funding in a failed attempt to block it. The Missouri Supreme Court later ruled the state must enroll and provide services to the expanded population, but the program risks running out of funding if lawmakers don't pass a supplemental appropriation.

#### On education, Parson is requesting \$600 million in additional funding for operational expenses and capital improvements at public four-year colleges and universities.

As for K-12 schools, Parson claims his budget "fully funds" public education. However, that is true only for basic state aid to local school districts, with state funding for student transportation remaining about \$182 million below what state law says it should be.

The governor's other budget priorities include \$400 million for rural broadband expansion, \$250 million for community development grants and a whopping \$722 million for child care programs.

Parson spent much of the early part of his speech praising his administration's largely hands-off approach to combatting the spread of COVID-19 and repeatedly referred to the pandemic in the past tense, as if it is over.

In reality, in recent weeks Missouri has set records for new cases and hospitalizations on a near daily basis. <u>On Jan. 12, Missouri broke its</u> record for the most cases in a single month in the two years since the pandemic began, despite the fact that the month wasn't even half over at that point.

The governor also cited questionable vaccination statistics, claiming 94% of residents age 65 or older and 75% of residents 18 and up are vaccinated. However, those numbers are for those who have only received a single dose.

In terms of those fully vaccinated, Missouri ranks fifth-worst in the nation for the 65-plus age group, with 83% deemed fully vaccinated. Only 54% of Missourians 18 or older are fully vaccinated for 11<sup>th</sup> worst nationally, according to tracking data maintained by the New York

Times.

## CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING PASSES

The Missouri House of Representatives on Jan. 19 voted to advance congressional redistricting legislation to the Senate but rejected adding an emergency clause that would allow the bill to take effect before candidate filing for the August primary elections opens on Feb. 22 as long as the governor signs the bill into law before then.

The redistricting bill passed narrowly on an 86-67-1 vote – earning just four more "yes" votes than the minimum number needed for passage – as several Republicans joined Democrats in opposition.

Democrats unanimously opposed the bill charging it packs the most heavily Democratic areas in the state that are in the Kansas City and St. Louis City areas into only two congressional districts to help preserve the current 6-2 advantage Republicans hold in Missouri's congressional delegation.

By contrast, Republican dissenters wanted a more aggressive approach that could result in a 7-1 split favoring Republicans by moving heavily Democratic areas in the 5<sup>th</sup> congressional district in the Kansas City area represented by Congressman Emanuel Cleaver to adjoining districts and replacing them with Republican leaning areas to make the 5<sup>th</sup> district more winnable for Republican candidates. An amendment to impose such a plan was crushed on a vote of 23-120.

A motion to add an emergency clause allowing the measure, House Bill 2117, to take effect immediately upon being signed into law by the governor failed on a vote of 95-55-3, falling well short of the 109-vote supermajority required. Without an emergency clause, the redistricting bill won't take effect until Aug. 28 – nearly four weeks after the Aug. 2 primaries.

However, lawmakers likely will revisit the emergency clause as the bill continues through the legislative process.

Lawmakers must redraw Missouri's eight congressional districts to reflect

population shifts reported by the 2020 U.S. Census.

### COMMISSION OKAYS HOUSE DISTRICTS

The independent commission charged with drawing new state House of Representatives districts on Jan. 19 finalized a redistricting plan that will be used for the next decade.

The unanimous agreement marks the first redistricting cycle since 1991 when the commission which is evenly split between Democrats and Republicans has avoided a partisan deadlock to successfully redraw Missouri's 163 House districts.

Such was not the fate for a separate commission tasked with crafting new state Senate districts.

After the Senate commission reached an impasse in December, the job of redrawing the 34 Senate district passed to another commission of six Missouri appellate judges that will be appointed by the Missouri Supreme Court.

Initial data on the new House plan indicates it increases the number of Democratic leaning districts and creates a number of others that could be competitive. Democrats have won in less than a third of the districts in every general election under the previous House map which took effect with the 2012 elections. Most independent observers felt that map strongly favored Republican candidates by packing many Democratic leaning areas into a relatively small number of districts.

Legislative districts must be redrawn every decade to reflect population shifts reported by the most recent U.S. Census. The new House redistricting plan will be used starting with this year's elections and ending with the 2030 elections.

## JUDGE WON'T BLOCK MASK MANDATE

A St. Louis County judge on Jan. 19 rejected Attorney General Eric

Schmitt's request for a temporary restraining order blocking enforcement of St. Louis County's mask mandate, saying Schmitt is "unlikely to succeed" in his lawsuit challenging the county's action.

The St. Louis County Council enacted its current mask ordinance on Jan. 5, and Schmitt promptly sued.

#### In rejecting the request for a restraining order, Circuit Judge Richard Stewart said Schmitt's legal interpretation would require the court to ignore certain portions of the state law authorizing the county's action.

The case, *State ex rel. Eric Schmitt v. St. Louis County*, is scheduled for a hearing on Feb. 8.

## COURT RULES AGAINST TREASURER

A three-judge panel of the Missouri Court of Appeals Western District on Jan. 18 affirmed a trial judge's decision upholding ballot language Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft's office prepared for a proposed constitutional amendment seeking to give the state treasurer greater flexibility in investing taxpayer funds.

State Treasurer Scott Fitzpatrick had sued Ashcroft claiming the ballot language is argumentative and likely to prejudice voters against the measure.

Amendment 1, which is slated to appear on the Nov. 8 statewide ballot, would loosen existing constitutional restrictions on the type of investments the treasurer can make. Among other changes, it would allow the treasurer to "also invest in other reasonable and prudent financial instruments and securities as otherwise provided by law."

Fitzpatrick objected to a portion of the ballot language Ashcroft's office prepared stating Amendment 1 would "allow the General Assembly to override the current constitutional restrictions of state investments by the state treasurer."

He argued this language is "inaccurate and biased" because Amendment 1

grants the legislature no role in managing state investments, which is the constitutional responsibility of the treasurer.

However, both the trial judge and appellate court agreed with Ashcroft that Amendment 1 would give the legislature the power to statutorily authorize investments that currently are prohibited by the constitution.

The case is *Fitzpatrick v. Ashcroft*.

# "Won't You Be My Neighbor?"

# Speaker Series at Holmeswood

9:00am-Speaker 10:15am-Speaker and Worship

**City Manager Brian Platt** 

"Housing Crisis in KC"

**January 23** 





**Councilwoman Andrea Bough** 

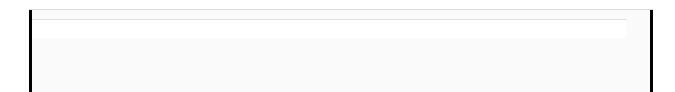
# "Tenants' Right to Counsel"

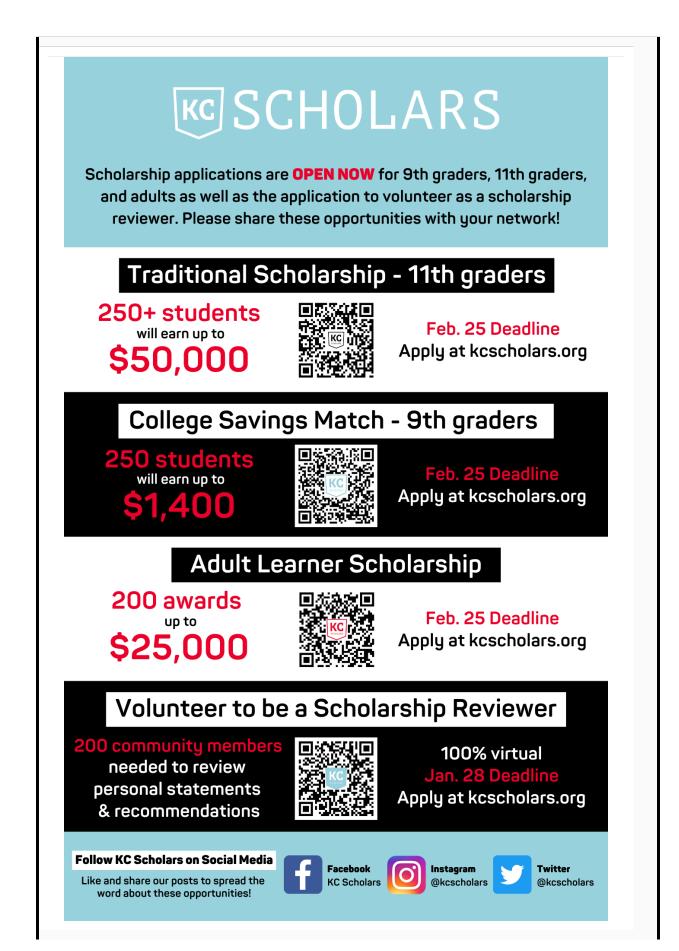
# **January 30**

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

"Re-Entry Court" February 6

Holmeswood Baptist Church 9700 Holmes Rd holmeswood.org









# 13TH ANNUAL GRANDVIEW C-4



# ?

# Thursday, January 27, 2021

6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

A fundraiser to support teacher grants, student scholarships and other programs, this event is hosted through TriviaHub.

Gather your team through a zoom platform (together or apart) and join us for a competitive game of fun!

## BE A SPONSOR



#### Mensa - \$1,000

- 1 free team of 8
- · Website, Newsletter & Social Media Recognition
- Recognition during event
- Logo recognition on-screen during event
- Genius \$500
- 1 free team of 8
- Website, Newsletter & Social Media Recognition

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Recognition during event

#### Brainiac - \$250

- Website, Newsletter & Social Media Recognition
  - Recognition during event

## FORM A TEAM

#### Team of 8 - \$100

Gather 8 friends, family or coworkers for a night of fun!

## DONATE GOODS OR SERVICES

With a virtual format, we will gladly accept donations of gift cards or certificates to offer as prizes throughouth the evening!

Register online at: https://forms.gle/4GwtMKdpgBW8UCbn8 For questions call 913.522.9943 Presented by:

GRANDVIEW

## Do you want to work but first need:

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



## Join Us for FREE Overcoming Barriers to Employmen INFORMATION • PRESENTATIONS • 1:1 SUPPORTS 10 am - 1 pm, Feb. 16, 2022 St. Luke's United Methodist Church, 9420 James A. Reed Road, KCP

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

#### **Catholic Charities**

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

#### **Community Assistance Council**

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

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

#### **Full Employment Council**

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

#### TO REGISTER REGISTRATION HELPFUL WALK-INS WELCOME

Scan QR code: Visit: www.cackc.org Email: info@cackc.org Call: 816-763-3277 X 103 For general information: Rachel Casey 816-763-3277 X 103 rachel.casey@cackc.org



Goodwill 1:1 – Building Your Resume

Kansas City Area Transportation Auth Help With Your Best Public Transportation Route/Op

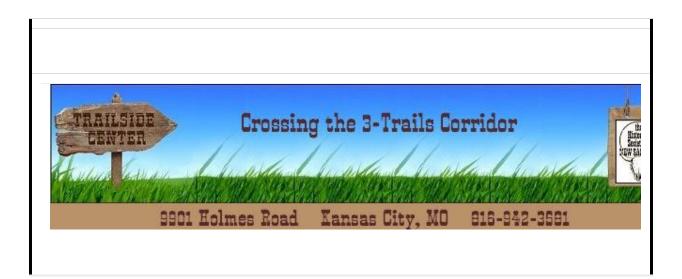
Mid-Continent Public Library 1:1 - Assessments and Best Resources for You

Women's Employment Network Presentation - Essential Skills You Need for ANY Jol

#### Also, Walk Away With:

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









# PLEASE HELP US SHARE THE WORD Empower has Resources -Needs Hickman Mills Students, Families



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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



10901 Blue Ridge Blvd Kansas City, MO 64134 www.cackc.org



Empower mom and daughte goals at a Vision Board ever





# ABOUT COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE COUNCIL

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

#### **CAC Services**

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

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

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

FOR SERVICES - Start an application at www.cackc.org; IF NO internet call 816-763-3277 x 10 food or diapers, 816-763-3277 x 108 for rent, utilities or other assistance. For general information, visit www.cackc.org, email info@cackc.org.

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







# **South KC Mobile Food Pantries**

Many families in south Kansas City are being forced to rely on community food pantries such as Community Assistance Council's to have enough to eat.

Fortunately, Harvesters (the community food network) brings the semi-truck that serves as its mobile food pantry to seven sites in south Kansas City monthly to distribute fresh produce and other healthy food to families in need. The sites are:

**Center School District,** 8701 Holmes Rd., from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. as long as food is left on the first Saturday of the month. Persons should drive through the bus parking lot to the district warehouse. The event is sponsored by Three Trails Community church in partnership with the Center School District. (There will be no pantry in January.)

**Center District Warehouse,** 8701 Holmes Rd., from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. the second Friday of each month. Persons should go to the entrance to the Center Administrative Office and drive through the bus parking lot to the warehouse where volunteers will load the food. Persons should take the Troost Ave exit. The event is sponsored by the Center Education Foundation in partnership with the Center School District.

**Evangel Church,** 1414 E. 103<sup>rd</sup> St., from 7 to 8:30 a.m. the second Saturday of the month. Persons may remain in their vehicles, and food will be brought to them.

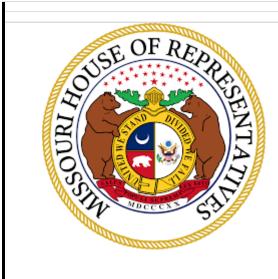
**United Believers Community Church**, 5600 E. 112th Terr., with vehicles lining up at 8:30 a.m. and contactless food distribution running from 9 to 11 a.m. the third Wednesday of the month.

**Ruskin High School,** 7000 E. 111<sup>th</sup> St., from 4 to 5:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month. Vehicles should line up on Ruskin Way on the east side of the school, and staff and students will load the food when vehicles reach the school.

**Colonial Presbyterian Church,** 9500 Wornall Rd., with registration beginning at 8 a.m. and food distribution running from about 8:30 to 10 a.m. on the third Saturday of the month. Families are asked to bring two cardboard boxes for volunteers to put the food in.

**Red Bridge United Methodist Church**, 636 E. 117<sup>th</sup> St., from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. on the fourth Friday of the month in the church parking lot.





#### State Representative Mark A. Sharp

Missouri House of Representatives Room 102-BA 201 W Capitol Ave Jefferson City, Mo 65101 Phone 573-751-9469

Email

#### mark.sharp@house.mo.gov

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