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Dear Neighbor,

Residents of the 6th Council District in KCMO which includes most of my legislative district can request the city to fund neighborhood capital improvements such as park amenities, sidewalks, storm drainage projects and street widenings at a **virtual hearing of the Public Improvements Advisory Committee (PIAC) at 6 p.m. Monday, June 29.**

Persons wishing to request a project should RSVP by calling the PIAC office at 816-513-8828 or by emailing PIAC@kcmo.org and giving their first and last names, organization they represent (if any), email address, phone number and address or location of the project.

Staff will send them instructions for participating in the meeting through ZOOM or they may call in to participate by calling ZOOM at 312-626-6799 and entering the meeting ID 91379119420 and password 327522.

Persons also may go on the city website at kcmo.gov and go to Programs & Initiatives, scroll down to Public Improvements Advisory Committee (PIAC) and click on PIAC Public Hearings to find out more information about participating.

In other south Kansas City news, the staff of the Missouri Department of Transportation has informed me the good news that **the Hillcrest Rd. bridge over I-470** which has been closed for major structural improvements and repairs **is scheduled to be reopened the afternoon of Monday, June 29**, unless weather delays completing the small amount of work that remains to be done.

Email is probably the best way to reach my office. If you are unable to quickly reach me, my assistant [Brian Farmer](#) 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 26th, 2020

SUPREME COURT REVIVES ABSENTEE VOTING LAWSUIT

The Missouri Supreme Court on June 23 revived a lawsuit seeking a declaration 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.

However, with absentee voting for the Aug. 4 primary already underway, it's uncertain if the case will come to a final resolution before then.

Cole County Judge Jon Beetem dismissed the case in May on procedural grounds but then went ahead and issued a ruling on its merits anyway, declaring that a provision of the state law authorizing absentee voting because of "incapacity or confinement due to illness" doesn't apply to otherwise healthy people who simply want to minimize their chances of being exposed to COVID-19.

In a unanimous but unsigned opinion, the Supreme Court said Beetem wrongly dismissed the case, but having done so Beetem also erred by then ruling on its merits, which wasn't proper on a motion to dismiss. The court ordered Beetem to fully reconsider the case, including any potential impact from changes to Missouri voting laws that were enacted after his original decision.

Gov. Mike Parson signed that legislation, Senate Bill 631 which I voted for, into law June 4. It authorizes registered voters age 65 or over, those who have contracted COVID-19, those who live in a licensed long-term care facility or those of any age who have a medical condition that makes them especially vulnerable to COVID-19, to cast an absentee ballot without getting their signatures notarized.

The bill also creates a vote-by-mail process for all other Missouri voters. However, mail-in ballots must be notarized in person which defeats the purpose of voters trying to minimize contact with other people.

As of June 24, Beetem hadn't yet set a new hearing for the case. Given that Beetem has already ruled on the merits of the case, albeit prematurely, it is possible that after further proceedings he could issue a modified version of his original ruling against the plaintiffs – the state chapters of the NAACP and League of Women Voters. Regardless of how he rules, the case is expected to again be appealed up to the Missouri Supreme Court before reaching a final resolution.

GOVERNOR CUTS ANOTHER \$2.4 MILLION FROM FY 2020 BUDGET

With just one week left in the current fiscal year, Gov. Mike Parson imposed another \$2.4 million in budget cuts on June 23, bringing the total amount of FY 2020 cuts he has unilaterally imposed to nearly \$435.4 million after state revenue collections collapsed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Unlike Parson's previous cuts which targeted state funding for local public school districts and higher education, the latest – and mostly symbolic – round of cuts affects the budgets of five of Missouri's six statewide elected officials, along with the Senate and House of Representatives. State Treasurer Scott Fitzpatrick was the only statewide elected official whose budget was spared.

Since the executive offices and the legislature have relatively small budgets compared to state departments, the cuts likewise are relatively minor and not expected to impact their operations during the fiscal year's final week. The cuts are: Senate, \$800,000; House, \$564,165; Secretary of State's Office, \$350,000; Governor's Office, \$250,000; State Auditor's Office, \$200,000; Attorney General's Office, \$200,000; and Lieutenant Governor's Office, \$31,135.

Parson still must take action on the various appropriations bills that make up the FY 2021 state budget before the new fiscal year starts on

July 1. He is expected to make substantial cuts through the use of both line-item vetoes and his budgetary withholding authority. While budget vetoes can only be reversed by legislative override, the governor is able to restore withholdings later in the fiscal year if revenue collections improve.

PARSON FILLS TWO POLICE OVERSIGHT COMMISSION SLOTS

Gov. Mike Parson on June 19 appointed two members to the Missouri Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission. However, six spots remain to be filled on the 11-member panel that oversees law enforcement licensing, training and discipline in Missouri.

The appointments came nearly two weeks after House Minority Leader Crystal Quade, D-Springfield, and Missouri Legislative Black Caucus Chairman Steve Roberts, D-St. Louis, wrote Parson noting that eight Commission slots were either vacant or held by members serving on long-expired terms. With police training and accountability at the forefront amid protests in Missouri and across the world about police conduct, the two legislative leaders told Parson a commission this important couldn't be allowed to continue on autopilot.

Parson appointed Lincoln University Police Chief and Director of Public Safety Gary Hill to one of the vacant slots. Jefferson County Sheriff Dave Marshak is the other appointee and replaces a commissioner who had been serving a term that expired in October 2010 – nearly a decade ago.

Of the remaining commission spots that need to be filled, three are vacant and three are held by people serving terms that expired in either 2016 or 2017. Yet another commissioner's term is set to expire this October.



Rep. Sharp (left) and his father, former KCMO City Councilman John Sharp, unload a sliding door at the 6th Council District Cleanup on June 20. Rep. Sharp appreciates the City Neighborhoods & Housing Services Department conducting the cleanup which included most of his legislative district and is looking forward to volunteering at the next one October 10.



June 23, 2020

Families; Faith, Neighborhood, School and Community Leaders:

Please consider forwarding or sharing this information with your families, friends, neighbors, parishioners, members, etc.



**Hickman Mills Families:
Get Empowered!!**

**Through the free Empower program,
for families of Hickman Mills students:**

1. Receive supports to stabilize housing situations, reducing potential for eviction and utilities cut-offs.
2. Connect to mental and other health professionals for physical and emotional well-being.
3. Learn and practice budgeting skills.
4. Work on building or rebuilding credit.
5. Work toward education goals for adults and children.
6. Commit to a year of monthly meetings with a coach to help meet your goals.

Sound like a good match for your family, or a family you can pass this along to? If so:

Call Community Assistance Council at **816-763-3277 x 114**, or email empower@cackc.org. Download the flyer [here](#).

Sign up by June 30 and receive a free \$20 gift card!

CAC, 10901 Blue Ridge Blvd, KCMO 64134 (on Ruskin HS grounds)

**Facing an Eviction or Utility Shut-off? Need Food or Diapers?
Lost income or a job due to COVID-19?**

Community Assistance Council (CAC) is in your neighborhood ready to help. CAC offers emergency assistance to families who meet income guidelines and live in the Hickman Mills or Center School Districts or the south Kansas City part of the Grandview School District.

For **emergency rent or utilities assistance**, call **816-763-3277 x 108** (leave one message, your call will be returned) or email debbra.hubbard@cackc.org to see if you qualify for assistance.

Families seeking **food assistance** (once per month) may pull up for

curbside pickup **Monday, Tuesday or Friday 9 am - 2:30 pm**. A CAC volunteer will meet you at your car to get some basic information and food will be brought out to you.

For Happy Bottoms **diapers and pull-ups** (once per month), drive up for curbside service **Thursday 10 am to 2 pm**. New clients must pre-register by calling 816-763-3277 x 100.

For Kansas City Medicine Cabinet **medicines or medical devices**, call **816-763-3277 x 108** (leave one message, your call will be returned) or email debbra.hubbard@cackc.org to see if you qualify for assistance.

CAC exists to help families reach stability, avoid homelessness, maintain utilities, reduce food insecurity, receive medicines and medical devices and keep babies' bottoms happy to support a healthy community. CAC is located on the grounds of Ruskin High School and has been serving families and individuals in south Kansas City since 1976

Click [here](#) to visit CAC's website for more information.

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 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.



Food Distribution

Saturday, June 27, 2020

9:00 am - 11:00 am

(Or until food is gone)

**Metropolitan Missionary
Baptist Church**

2310 E. Linwood Blvd, KCMO

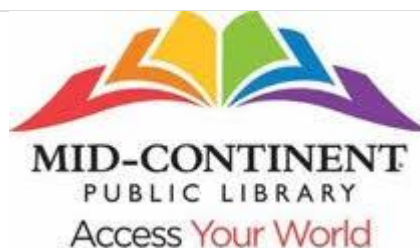
(Parking lot located in the back of the Church)

Cars will line up at the corner of
Linwood Blvd & Olive Street
(facing west)

First Come - First Serve Basis

Volunteers wearing masks and gloves
will load food into cars

in Cooperation with
Harvesters | Kansas City Police Department | Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church



MCPL Grandview Branch Closes on July 3 for Renovations

Grandview, MO – At 5:00 p.m. on Friday, July 3, Mid-Continent Public Library's Grandview Branch (12930 Booth Lane, Grandview, MO) will close for several months as the facility undergoes a major renovation. Construction at the Grandview Branch, which is estimated to be complete by late spring 2021, will include an expansion of nearly 4,400 square feet as well as a variety of other improvements, including:

1. New community programming room
2. Three Meeting/collaboration rooms
3. New dedicated children's area
4. Parking lot repairs
5. Improved Wi-Fi coverage and access
6. Enhanced entry with automatic entry doors
7. New paint, carpet, and ceilings

"We're excited for these upgrades and believe they will prove to be an incredible asset to our community," said Ashley Durkee, Grandview Branch Manager. "While we will miss serving our customers during the renovation, we look forward to welcoming them back into a new and improved library that will enable us to better meet their needs for years to come."

While the Grandview Branch is closed, the Library will direct customers to the Red Bridge Branch (unless customers request a different branch) to pick up materials they have put on hold. Grandview Branch customers are welcome and encouraged to use the services of any other MCPL branch.

This renovation is part of MCPL's ongoing Capital Improvement Plan, which it launched following the passage of Proposition L in 2016. As part of the Capital Plan, all MCPL branches will be

improved in some way, and two new branches will be built by the end of 2022. One of the two, the new East Lee's Summit Branch, opened earlier this month.

While the upgrades at each branch have varied based on individual community needs and the building's current condition, the Library's goal is to create more intentional spaces and upgrade essential technology. The Library is working with **Sapp Design Architects**, **Helix Architecture + Design**, and **JE Dunn** to complete all of the work in the Capital Plan.

In addition to all the physical upgrades, the increased funding approved by voters in 2016 has allowed MCPL to expand branch hours, enhance special services, augment early literacy efforts, and buy more materials. **More information about the Grandview Branch and all of the Library's construction projects can be found online at mymcpl.org/Community.**



A Statement from the Center Education Foundation Board of Directors

The killings of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and so many others, are repeated reminders of the deep systemic racism that

remains in our country and threatens the lives of black Americans every day. We, the Board members of the Center Education Foundation, join the voices demanding justice and stand with our community members who are personally impacted by this continued racial violence, especially the young people we support in our Center schools.

We understand, now more than ever, that Black Lives Matter.

We are proud of the work our schools and community have done over the years to create a culture of inclusiveness and diversity. Many of our graduates tell us they are grateful for the experiences they have had learning and working with students from a wide variety of backgrounds.

We recognize, however, that we have much to learn and much to change to become a fully anti-racist organization and community. We pledge to work together to make that happen.

As members of the Board, we pledge to actively listen and learn, both individually and as a group. We then pledge to examine our policies and processes as an organization to identify changes that need to be made for us to become truly anti-racist in our beliefs, words, and actions. Finally, we pledge to be active and vocal supporters of change throughout our community that leads to racial equity in all aspects of our world.

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.





COVID-19

FREE TESTING CLINIC

Testing symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals!

Tuesday, June 30

10:00am - 2:00pm

Metro Christian Fellowship Church

2217 High Grove Rd.
Grandview, MO 64030



Register today at:

<https://form.jotform.com/201755749036157>

Testing provided by:



**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   

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 [hotline](#) for residents and health care providers to call for information and guidance about COVID-19.

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

On August 4, Missouri votes to expand Medicaid.



Website for Essential Companies Hiring NOW!!

Missouri faces unprecedented times due to the impacts of COVID-19. Here at the Department of Economic Development, we recognize that many of the low-income, at-risk citizens your organizations work with will be hit the hardest and be the first to lose employment. With that in mind, we wanted to direct your attention to the Missouri Now Hiring website <https://missourionestart.com/now-hiring>. Missouri One Start

is connecting unemployed workers to essential companies who are staffing up to meet the increased demand for their products and services. There you will find a list of companies that are hiring right now. This site takes workers directly to the hiring/application pages of the respective companies. The list is updated on an ongoing basis, so checking back daily is advised. Please link your clients in-need to this website so our workers can make it past this situation as painlessly as possible.

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 uinteract.labor.mo.gov, 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: 816-889-3101 or visit [Missouri Unemployment Website](#)

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>

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, questions or ideas!