



Capitol Report

September 3, 2021

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Dear Neighbor,

Although session ended three and a half months ago, there has been plenty to keep me busy here at home, in Jefferson City and throughout our state.

My joy for the court ruling securing medicaid for over 240,000 additional Missourians was short-lived as I continue to work on unemployment related issues for many constituents, COVID-19, Critical Race Theory and working to release wrongfully convicted persons in our state.

With the recent enactment of the "Heartbeat Law" in Texas, I will be preparing to oppose legislation that I am sure will be introduced in Missouri as the blueprint for America's most restrictive abortion law has been drawn. I find it amazing that many of the same folks who don't want to wear a mask or get vaccinated because it's their body and their choice don't get it when it comes to reproductive choice. I guess since I believe masks and vaccinations save lives, that make me pro-life. Hmmm???

I have also spent the summer traveling the state engaging with agencies and directors to better serve you. I have also traveled the state to promote Missouri in my role as a Tourism Commissioner. This expanded edition of the newsletter covers some little known

information that I want you to have and also gives a recap on the state bicentennial celebration and my day at the state fair.

It is hard to believe that summer is drawing to a close and I want to wish you a safe and enjoyable Labor Day weekend!

Yours in Service,

Rich



Missouri House Democrats

Yesterday at 5:44 PM · 🌐



Richard Brown Missouri State Representative-District 27 speaking at the Rally for Justice today in support of freeing wrongfully convicted Missourians like #KevinStrickland and #LamarJohnson



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Write a comment...



A rally was held on Monday for Kevin Strickland, Lamar Johnson and other wrongfully convicted incarcerated persons. I spoke at the rally and [you can watch me call for changes](#) in the Missouri compensation law for wrongfully convicted individuals.

[You can read about the rally here in the KC Star.](#)

STATE BOARD CHANGES SUBSTITUTE TEACHER TRAINING RULES

The Missouri State Board of Education voted 7-0 on Aug. 17 to approve a regulation permanently authorizing a streamlined process for obtaining a substitute teacher's license in Missouri. The board first authorized the new process a year ago on a temporary basis to address a statewide substitute teacher shortage that was exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Under the alternate training process, prospective substitute teachers must complete a 20-hour on-line training course approved by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Previously, substitute teachers were required to have at least 60 hours of college credit. Under the revised regulation, applicants can still go the college-credit route to qualify for a substitute teacher's license.

According to the Missouri net radio news network, board member Don Claycomb of Linn said that despite initial skepticism by some on the board, the change has been an improvement. Claycomb noted that while the required 60 college credit hours can be in any subject – and not necessarily related to education, the on-line course focuses on preparing people to be substitute teachers.

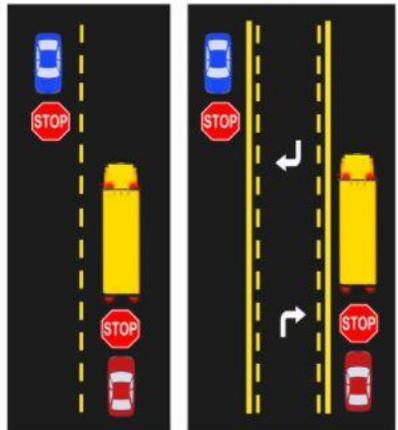
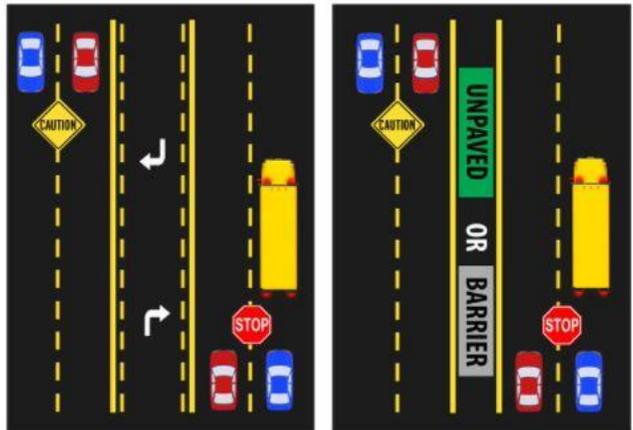


I participated in a meeting concerning the safety of Missourians and Kansas Citians in particular. Pictured from left to right are Representative Mark Sharp; Missouri Public Safety Director, Sandy Karsten; Representative Emily Weber and KCPD East Patrol Commander, Major Kari Thompson.



I am always concerned about our state's Emergency Preparedness Management. I recently visited with members of Missouri Task Force One, our state emergency response team. I have concerns for tornado, flood, and earthquake preparedness. The Task Force was deployed this week to assist Louisiana with its hurricane and flood recovery.

IT'S BACK TO SCHOOL TIME

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY 	
TWO LANE ROADS WITH AND WITHOUT TURNING LANE	4 OR MORE LANE HIGHWAYS
	
Vehicles traveling in both directions MUST stop.	Vehicles behind the bus MUST stop. Vehicles traveling the opposite direction should proceed with CAUTION .



Council approves transformative 63rd and Prospect PIEA Development Plan

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Aug. 23, 2021

The plan to redevelop the northwest corner of 63rd and Prospect Avenue is moving forward, bringing us closer to the day when that area will see more affordable housing, a grocery store and other mixed-use development.

The ordinance approved last week by the City Council supports a Planned Industrial Expansion Authority (PIEA) General Development plan and a blight declaration for the area. Councilmembers also accepted \$500,000 in Central City Economic Development funding for pre-development expenses related to the development plan.

"It has taken a great deal of work to get the project to this point, but I'm pleased that progress is being made. I'm looking forward to the continued work that must be done so the result will be a dynamic development that the community will be proud of," said Councilman Lee Barnes Jr.

After issuing an RFP (Request for Proposal) seeking proposals to revitalize the area in 2018, the City Council passed a resolution recognizing UrbanAmerica as the development partner to redevelop the 25-acre site. The city controls the site through a 99-year lease with the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Commission.

The proposed first phase of the development plan consists of a 300-unit, mixed income (market rate, workforce and affordable) multi-family building and a 120-key extended stay hotel with parking. Additional phases include:

- Phase 2: a supermarket and three mixed-use buildings featuring offices and ground floor retail
- Phases 3 and 4: two big-box retail buildings, infill retail, up to three restaurant sites and a repositioning of a gas station/convenience store
- Phases 5 and 6: a self-storage facility and additional supportive services for the development.

The deadline to complete the first development phase is within two years of exercising a purchase option and the second phase within five years of executing a development agreement. The plan stipulates completion of all phases within eight years.

“This important step shows our commitment to redeveloping 63rd Street, a major corridor for our district,” said Councilwoman Ryana Parks-Shaw. “The 63rd and Prospect Development Plan coordinates with other critical infrastructure improvement projects planned in the area — smart sewer upgrades and a street reconstruction. This project will also be a catalyst for future investment and provides density and much needed economic development in the fifth district.”

The PIEA ordinance makes property within boundaries of the development plan eligible for PIEA benefits that include property tax abatement on incremental increases in value for up to 25 years, and sales tax exemption on construction materials during the construction period.

Future council action would include consideration of a final development plan, rezoning approval, and consideration of a new TIF Plan.

Media can contact Maggie Green, Media Relations Manager, at 816-379-6562.



Kansas City Contractor Arrested and Charged For Consumer Fraud

August 13, 2021

CLAY COUNTY, Mo. - Missouri Attorney General Eric Schmitt announced today that today that Cory Richards, 33, was arrested for allegedly defrauding customers in connection with his businesses, Metro Home Rehab and All Hands on Deck Outdoor Restoration. Richards was arrested in a sting operation coordinated by the Missouri Attorney General Consumer Protection investigators and the Clay County Fugitive Apprehension Unit. Richards is being held on a \$700,000 bond in Clay County.

Richards promised his victims contracting and construction services in exchange for large advance payments. After taking money from several consumers, including elderly Missourians, Richards did not provide the services as promised.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant Attorneys General Natalie Hewitt and John Grantham. Consumers who believe they

may have been scammed by a contractor should file a complaint with the Missouri Attorney General's Office by calling the Consumer Protection hotline at **800-392-8222** or by submitting a complaint online at ago.mo.gov.

The charges against Richards are allegations and, as in all criminal cases, the defendant is presumed innocent unless or until proven guilty in a court of law.



Thank you to all the wonderful people from the various parts of our state that showed up in Jefferson City for the Critical Race Theory hearing to support diverse education in our schools.

COMMUNITY NEWS AND HAPPENINGS



Missouri Democrats participated in the
Kansas City Pride Day Parade.

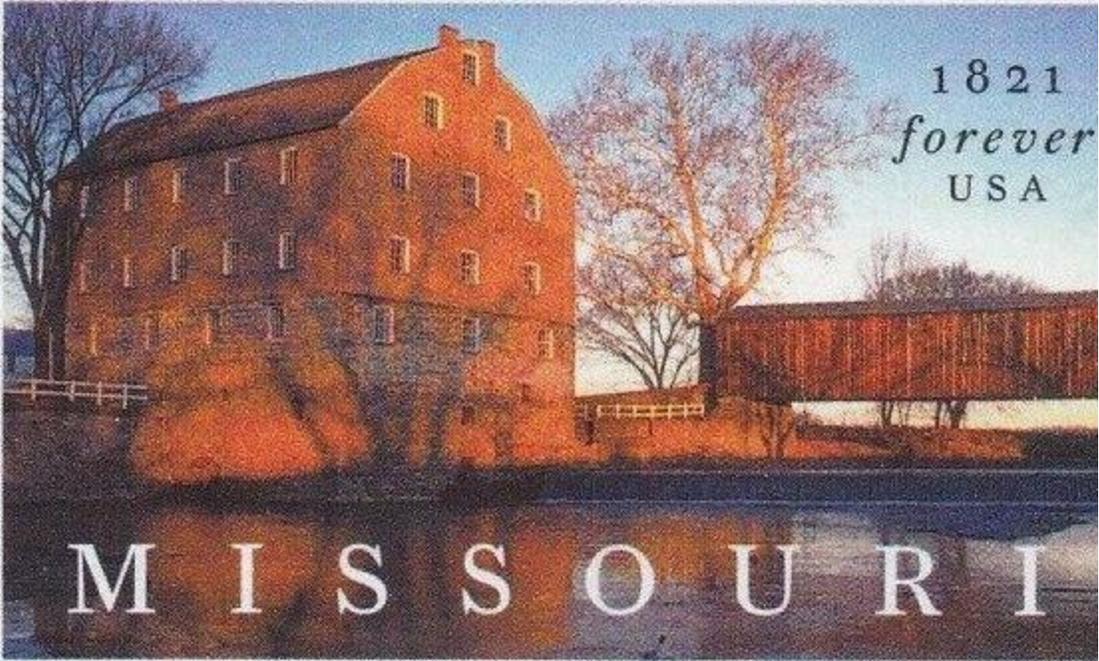
Missouri 2021

BICENTENNIAL



I joined Anna S. Hui, Director, Department of Labor and Industrial Relations and Governor Mike Parson after the unveiling of the new Missouri statehood stamp as part of the Bicentennial celebrations.

2021



1821
forever
USA

MISSOURI



It was a beautiful day in Jefferson City to celebrate the Bicentennial of our state. I had the opportunity to participate in the Bicentennial Tree Planting Ceremony.

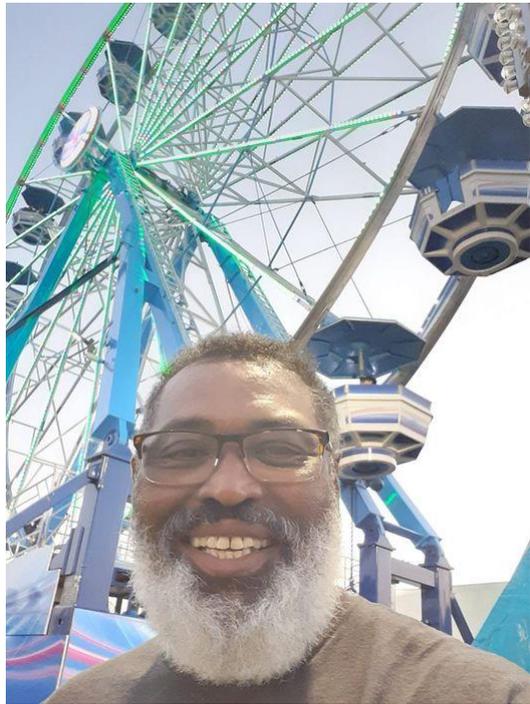


2021 Missouri State Fair



Fun at your Missouri State Fair

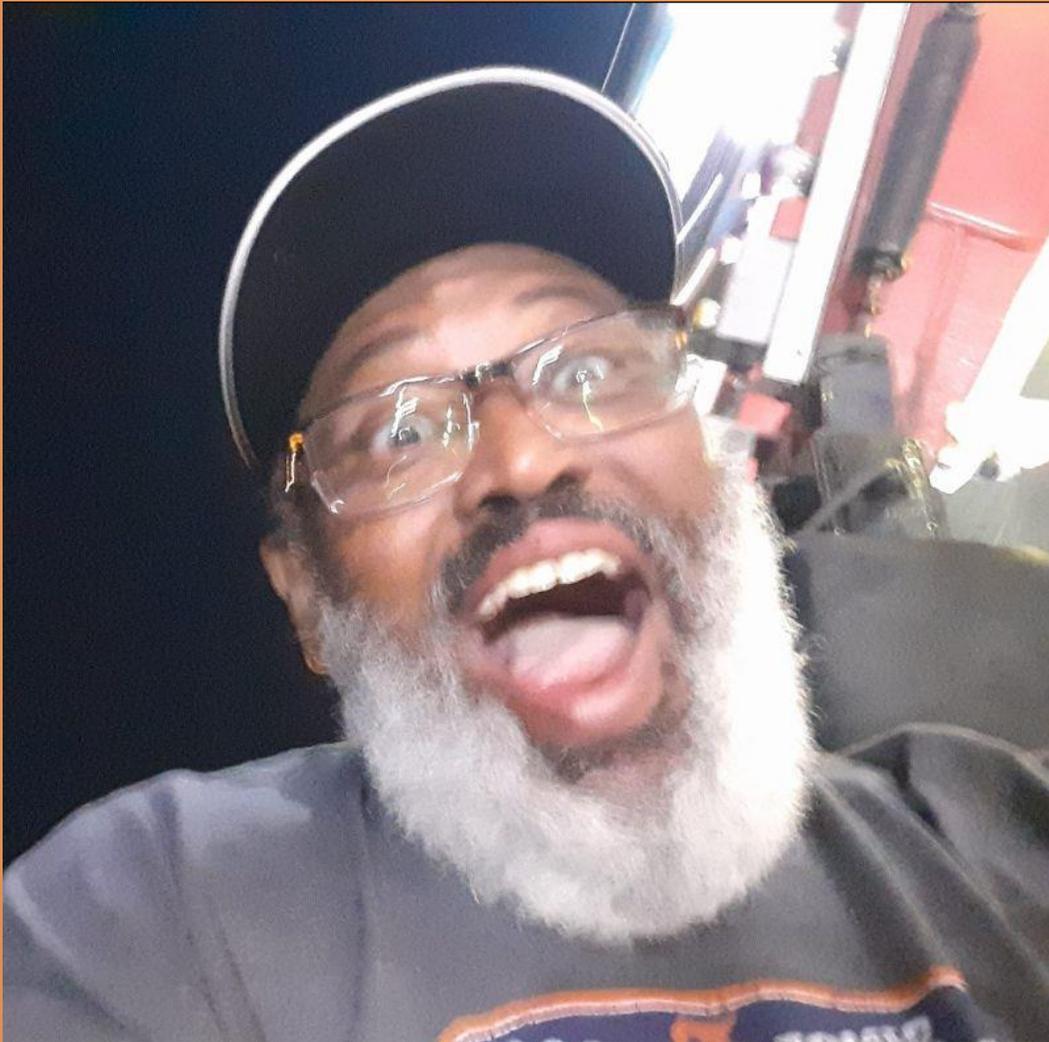




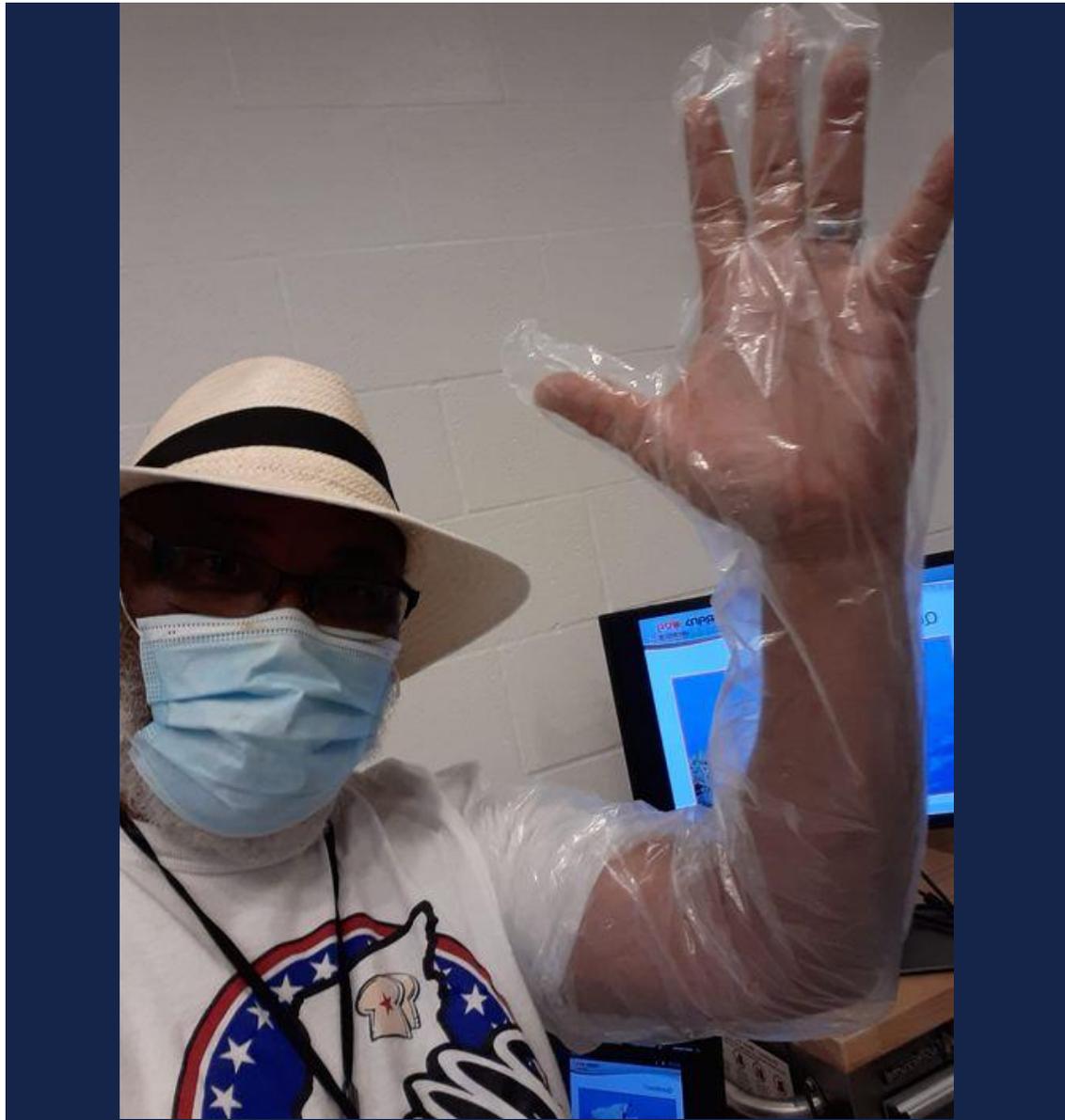




Congratulations to Miss Rosie Lenz,
the 2021 Missouri State Fair Queen.



In addition to serving as your state representative,
I serve as a Tourism Commissioner for Missouri.
[Click on the link to see my Facebook video](#) at the
Missouri State Fair.



Earlier this summer, I had the unique opportunity to visit a cattle embryo facility in Chillicothe. Don't ask why I have on a glove that goes all the way up to my shoulder. LOL!

COVID-19 Vaccine Walk-In appointments are available at our two hospital campuses (2211 Charlotte and 7900 Lee's Summit Road)

7am to 2 pm Monday through Friday. In addition, one may schedule a vaccine at www.trumed.org or by calling 816-404-CARE.
