

Dear Neighbor,

Please scroll down to find out more about several major events in our area that will be taking place by the time you receive this or shortly thereafter.

An annual state, county and city sales tax holiday on certain items in KCMO, Jackson County and other participating cities and counties in Missouri started today (Friday, August 6) and will run through midnight Sunday, August 8.

During this period the following items are exempt from sales tax:

Clothing including footwear and disposable diapers that do not have a taxable value over \$100;

School supplies not exceeding \$50 per purchase, plus graphing calculators with a value of no more than \$150 and computer software with a value of no more than \$350; and

Personal computers with a value of no more than \$1,500 and peripheral devices with a value of no more than \$1,500.

Even if a local jurisdiction isn't participating in the sales tax holiday, the 4.225% state sales tax will be waived on qualifying purchases.

From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. tomorrow (Saturday, August 7) City Councilwoman

Ryana Parks-Shaw is sponsoring Operation Backpack which will provide free backpacks, school supplies, books, food, feminine hygiene products and other items to KCMO students and their families at Swope Park.

Truman Medical Centers is offering to provide free Pfizer COVID vaccinations to anyone 12 and over at the event. Minors will need the consent of an accompanying parent or guardian, and the second dose will be scheduled at the most convenient location for each person.

A map giving directions to the event is below.

Also, please don't forget that the last two public hearings this year in south Kansas City are coming up to request city funding for neighborhood capital improvement projects like curbs & sidewalks, playgrounds & other park improvements and storm water control.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Council District in-person hearing of the Public Improvements Advisory Committee that makes funding recommendations to the City Council that are almost always approved will be from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, August 10, at Hillcrest Community Center, 10401 Hillcrest Rd.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Council District in-person hearing will be from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, August 17, at Southeast Community Center, 4201 E. 63<sup>rd</sup> St.

Funding requests must be submitted to the city by August 31.

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.

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https://xeroxcorp.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/preview/SV_2hma3a8BLwrmIFE?Q_C
HL=preview&Q_SurveyVersionID=current
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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

# **WEEKLY CAPITOL UPDATE** Friday, August 5, 2021

#### HEARING TODAY ON MEDICAID EXPANSION

Cole County Circuit Judge Jon Beetem has scheduled a hearing at 4 p.m. today to determine how the state must implement Medicaid expansion in the wake of the Missouri Supreme Court's recent ruling upholding the validity of a state constitutional amendment making an estimated 275,000 more Missourians eligible for the health care program.

The high court ruled on July 22 that the Missouri Constitution requires the state Department of Social Services to enroll the expanded population in Medicaid. The court also explicitly stated that the legislature provided the necessary spending authority in the fiscal year 2022 state budget to pay for services to the expanded population.

Given the clarity of the Supreme Court's unanimous ruling, an order from Beetem forcing the state to implement expansion is widely expected to be a formality. However, given the decade-long resistance by some state officials to expansion, it's also speculated Attorney General Eric Schmitt could attempt to continue delaying the enrollment of additional Medicaid recipients.

Under the federal Affordable Care Act, states can raise their Medicaid eligibility threshold to 138 percent of the federal poverty level, and the federal government will pay 90 percent of the cost. After years of the General Assembly blocking Medicaid expansion, supporters used the initiative petition process to bypass lawmakers and take the issue directly to Missouri voters who ratified the expansion amendment last year.

Medicaid expansion was supposed to take effect July 1, but Gov. Mike Parson refused to implement it, claiming the legislature didn't provide sufficient funding authority in the FY 2022 budget to do so. However, the Supreme Court ruled that since the legislature did provide funding for the overall Medicaid program with no exclusions for the expanded population, the state must begin enrolling that population.

Expansion is expected to bring about \$1.4 billion in additional federal Medicaid funding into Missouri for FY 2022, plus secure another \$1.5 billion under the latest federal COVID-19 relief package.

The additional economic activity from pumping billions more in federal spending into Missouri, as well as health care savings to the state from providing greater access to preventative care, is expected to generate more than enough revenue to pay for the state's share of expansion.

Beetem is expected to rule quickly, but it remains to be seen if the state will seek to appeal whatever action he takes. When the case originally was before him in June, Beetem ruled the Medicaid amendment was unconstitutionally enacted and therefore invalid, a conclusion rejected by the Supreme Court. The case is *Doyle v. Tidball*.

#### ATTEMPT TO FORCE GAS TAX VOTE DROPPED

A conservative anti-tax group has abandoned its attempt to force a statewide vote on a fuel tax increase Gov. Mike Parson signed into law this summer, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported on Aug. 3. The path is now clear for the law to take effect as scheduled on Aug. 28.

Senate Bill 262 gradually will increase the state fuel tax from its current 17 cents per gallon to 29.5 cents per gallon as of July 1, 2025. The first of five 2.5-cent increases will kick in on Oct. 1, with the remaining four following on each subsequent July 1. Missouri's fuel tax last was increased in 1996 under legislation enacted in 1992.

Shortly after lawmakers passed SB 262 in May, Americans for Prosperity Missouri filed a referendum petition seeking to stop the bill from taking effect unless approved by voters at the November 2022 general election. The group needed to collect signatures from a minimum of about 110,000 registered Missouri voters to force the issue onto the statewide ballot.

Although the group didn't specify why it ended its effort, considering it did so with nearly a month to go before the Aug. 28 deadline for submitting signatures indicates the signature-gathering process might not have been going well.

The referendum petition process is the rarely attempted cousin of the more widely used initiative petition process. Instead of bypassing lawmakers to independently propose legislation, as the initiative petition does, a referendum petition seeks to block a bill passed by the legislature and signed by the governor from taking effect unless it is approved by Missouri voters.

In nearly four decades, a referendum petition has only been successfully done once. That effort blocked a so-called "right-to-work" law passed by the General Assembly in 2017 from taking effect. Missouri voters overwhelmingly defeated the measure, with 67.5 percent against it, in 2018.

#### **MISSOURI MARKS ITS BICENTENNIAL AUG. 10**

On Aug. 10, Missouri will mark the bicentennial of the day in 1821 that

President James Monroe signed a congressional resolution making it the 24<sup>th</sup> state admitted to the Union.

Missouri had expected to achieve statehood a year earlier after Congress enacted the Missouri Compromise on March 6, 1820. To this day, Missouri's official state seal still says "1820".

Under the compromise, Missouri was to be the last slave state admitted north of the 36° 34' parallel, and Maine, a former province of Massachusetts, was admitted as a free state to maintain a numerical balance between free and slave states, a practice that continued for 30 years.

However, statehood was delayed over a provision of Missouri's newly ratified constitution that required the General Assembly to pass laws "to prevent free negroes and mulattoes from coming to, and settling in, this state under any pretext whatsoever."

Since the privileges and immunities clause of the U.S. Constitution requires states to grant full rights to the citizens of other states, Missouri's provision attempting to exclude free Blacks was unconstitutional.

Nearly a year later, Congress passed a resolution on March 2, 1821, granting Missouri admission to the Union on the condition the General Assembly pass "a solemn public act" declaring that it would never enforce the exclusion provision nor enact legislation pursuant to it. The state legislature did so on June 26, 1821. With the condition met, President Monroe signed the admission resolution about six weeks later.

Slavery continued in Missouri until the state enacted a law ending it on Jan. 11, 1865 – about 11 months before the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment was finally ratified in December 1865 to abolish slavery nationwide.

However, Missouri's action came more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation, which declared slavery was abolished in states that had seceded but didn't apply to slave states, like Missouri, that remained in the Union.



## News from the City Communications Office

City of Kansas City, Missouri kcmo.gov



#### Annual back-to-school sales tax holiday Aug. 6-8

This weekend is the perfect time to purchase school supplies, computers, clothing and other back-to-school necessities because these items will be exempt from state, city and county sales taxes starting early on Friday.

The annual sales tax holiday starts on on Aug. 6, at 12:01 a.m. and runs through midnight on Sunday, Aug. 8. During this time, certain back-to-school purchases are exempt from state sales tax. Most cities and counties are also participating, meaning these same purchases are exempt from city and county sales taxes as well.

The City of Kansas City, Missouri, Jackson and Clay counties are among the participants in this tax-free weekend. Here are the <u>cities</u> and <u>counties</u> that opted out.

During the sales tax holiday, state sales tax will not be charged on the following items:

 Clothing that does not have a taxable value of more than \$100. Eligible clothing items include any article of apparel intended to be worn on or about the body, including footwear and disposable diapers for infants or adults. Cloth and other material used to make school uniforms or other school clothing are also included. Not included are watches, watchbands, jewelry, handbags, handkerchiefs, umbrellas, scarves, ties, headbands, or belt buckles;

- School supplies, not exceeding \$50 per purchase, that are used in a standard classroom for educational purposes. School supplies include, but are not limited to, textbooks, notebooks, paper, writing instruments, crayons, art supplies, rulers, book bags, backpacks, chalk, maps, globes, handheld calculators, graphing calculators that do not have a taxable value of more than \$150, and computer software that does not have a taxable value of more than \$350. Not included are watches, radios, CD players, headphones, sporting equipment, portable or desktop telephones, copiers or other office equipment, furniture, or fixtures; and
- Personal computers that do not cost more than \$1,500 and computer peripheral devices that do not cost more than \$1,500. A personal computer can be a laptop, desktop, or tower computer system which consists of a central processing unit, random access memory, a storage drive, a display monitor, and a keyboard. Peripheral devices include items such as a disk drive, memory module, compact disk drive, daughterboard, digitizer, microphone, modem, motherboard, mouse, multimedia speaker, printer, scanner, single-user hardware, single-user operating system, soundcard, or video card.

Anyone who makes a qualified purchase may participate in the holiday. You do not have to be a Missouri resident or student to participate and save.

In addition to the state sales tax, local sales tax will also be waived in the cities, counties and special tax districts that choose to participate. Even if a local jurisdiction is not participating in the sales tax holiday, the state's portion of the tax rate (4.225%) will remain exempt for qualifying purchases.

You can find 2021 tax rate tables, frequently asked questions and more on the state's <u>website</u>.



Avila University announced today that Ronald A. Slepitza, Ph.D., CSJA will retire as the University's 14th President, effective July 31, 2022. After a 46-year career in higher education, the last 15 at Avila, Slepitza's announcement comes as the University is about to enroll one of its largest first-year classes ever.

"The Avila University mission and charism, imparted by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, is evident in the passion of our faculty and staff, the engagement of our Board, and the experiences related by alumni," said Slepitza. "I consider it the greatest blessing in my life to have played a role in Avila's history and look forward to Avila's bright future moving forward."

During his tenure, Slepitza led fund raising campaigns totaling over \$55 million, including \$30 million of campus enhancements. Avila's endowment also increased by 250% during his presidency.

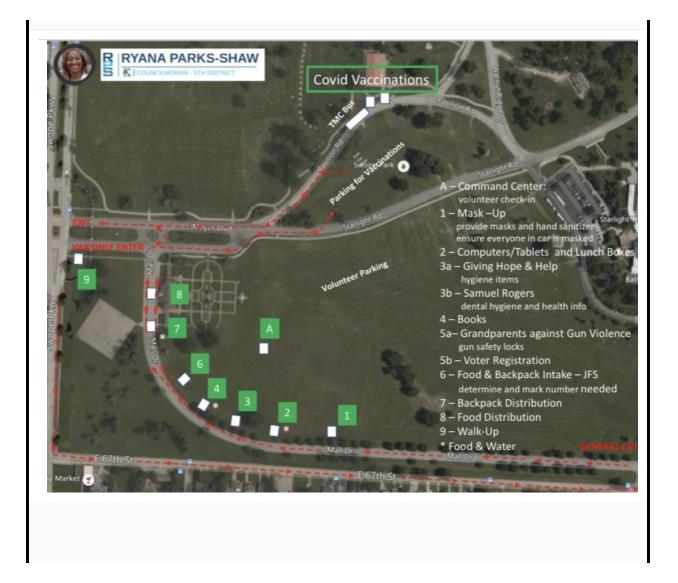
Slepitza is an Associate of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Carondelet (CSJA) and nearly 100 Avila faculty, staff, students and spouses have made similar commitments to be CSJ Associates during his 15 years at

the University. Actively involved in the community, Slepitza serves on governing boards, including Rockhurst High School, Notre Dame de Sion schools, Conception Abbey College Seminary, Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences and the Midwest Center for Holocaust Education. He has served as the chair of the Independent Colleges and Universities of Missouri, chair of the Association of the Sisters of St. Joseph Colleges and Universities, and on the executive committee of the Missouri Colleges fund, among others. He is a leader in Rotary Club of Leawood and an ambassador for KC Scholars, generously giving of his time and talents in the service of others.

"Avila's Board of Trustees extends our heartfelt gratitude for President Slepitza's commitment and years of service to Avila University," said Lisa Sackuvich '81, board of trustees chair. "He truly believes in the mission and the charism that makes Avila University a special gift for all students. His unwavering dedication to the mission, his vision to navigate through the challenges in higher education, his leadership to inspire lifelong learning and his capacity to effect change in people's lives, have forever left a lasting imprint."

The Board is moving forward to form a Search Committee in the coming weeks to begin the selection of Avila University's 15th President.







#### ONE ENTRY = ELIGIBILITY FOR ALL SUBSEQUENT DRAWINGS \* WINNERS MAY NOT WIN MORE THAN ONE TIME \*

#### **How to Enter**

Missourians can enter to win using our secure online form at MOStopsCovid.com/win. Those unable to enter online can call (877) 435-8411.

We will not automatically enter Missourians who have been vaccinated. You must enter separately.

#### **Winner Prizes & Categories**

The Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services will partner with the Missouri Lottery to draw 180 winners in 5 randomized drawings who will win either \$10,000 cash or \$10,000 towards an education savings account. In total, the state will award 900 individuals throughout the incentive program.

| <b>Red Pool</b>                    | White Pool                         | <b>Blue Pool</b>           |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Missourians 18+                    | Missourians 18+                    | Missourians 12 to 17       |
| If you are a Missourian            | If you are a Missourian            | If you are a Missourian    |
| 18 years of age or older           | 18 years of age or older           | between the ages of 12 to  |
| and received at least              | and received at least              | 17, you may register for a |
| one dose of a COVID-19             | one dose of a COVID-19             | chance to win a \$10,000   |
| vaccine <b>after July 21,</b>      | vaccine <b>before July 21,</b>     | education savings          |
| <b>2021</b> , you may register for | <b>2021</b> , you may register for | account through the        |
| a chance to win \$10,000           | a chance to win \$10,000           | Missouri State Treasurer's |

#### **Drawing Timeline**

Vaccinated individuals only need to enter one time to be eligible for all drawings that occur after the date their entry is received.

|         | ENTRY DEADLINE AT 11:59 P.M. | DRAWING DATES      |
|---------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| DRAW #1 | AUGUST 11, 2021              | AUGUST 13, 2021    |
| DRAW #2 | AUGUST 25, 2021              | AUGUST 27, 2021    |
| DRAW #3 | SEPTEMBER 8, 2021            | SEPTEMBER 10, 2021 |
| DRAW #4 | SEPTEMBER 22, 2021           | SEPTEMBER 24, 2021 |
| DRAW #5 | OCTOBER 6, 2021              | OCTOBER 8, 2021    |
|         |                              |                    |

#### **Questions?**

Translation services available online and by phone

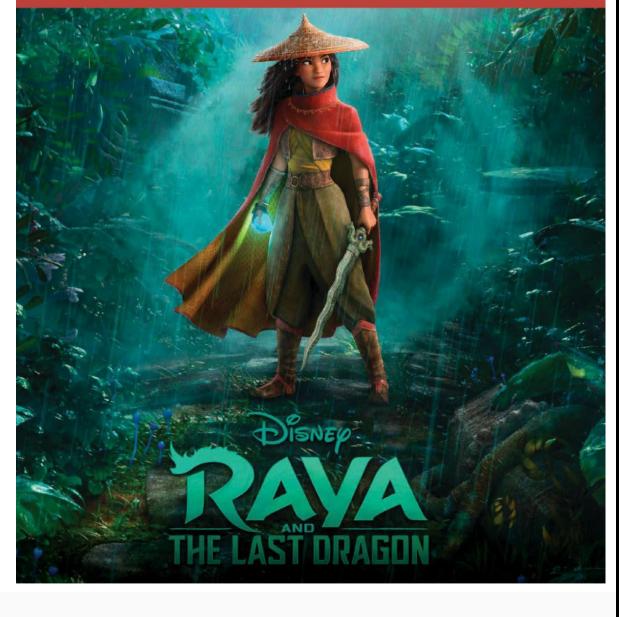


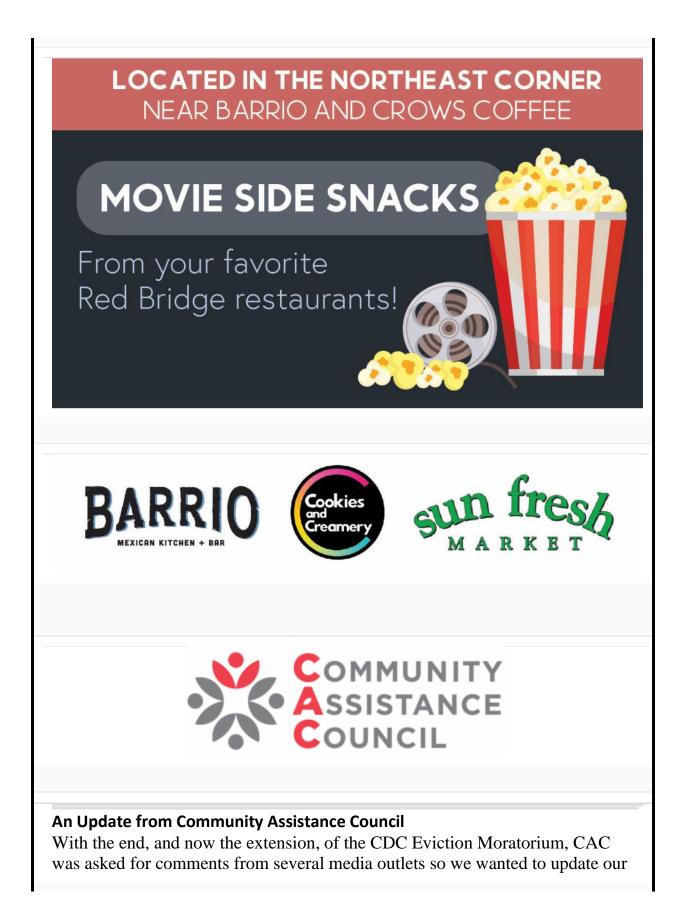


COVID-19 Hotline (877) 435-8411



# **SATURDAY, AUGUST 7** 8:30 PM PRESHOW, 9:00 PM FEATURED FILM





immediate community. Since March, CAC has been one of 15 Kansas City, Mo. nonprofit agencies awarded Emergency Rent Assistance Program (ERAP) funds to help keep people who lost jobs or income due to COVID in their homes. CAC was awarded \$550,000 of the City's allotted \$14.8 million to apply to back and future rent and utilities for, mostly, south Kansas City, residents. Even though residents applied through the portal on the City's website, CAC still receives hundreds of phone calls for assistance.

With ERAP and other funds, since January, CAC has provided almost \$400,000 in emergency rent assistance and \$160,000 in emergency utilities assistance to 486 families. However it's never enough. With no shelters in south Kansas City, and the downtown options almost always full, significant evictions will be devastating.

As the only emergency services agency located in south Kansas City and the community's frontline of homelessness prevention, we expect more challenges ahead. With a few thousand applications already in the system, the City's portal is now closed, most likely until September, when additional funding should be available.

**For Clients:** If you need rent or utilities assistance, we hope you already have an application in to the City's portal with all the required documentation. If you need food, hygiene items, diapers, IDs or other critical documents for employment, call 816-763-3277 x 110. If you have children in the Hickman Mills School District, we may be able to provide other supports through our Empower program - email <u>Shari.simmermon@cackc.org</u>. For CAC services click <u>HERE</u>.

**To our Community Partners, Supporters, Donors**: Thank you for supporting CAC through the last 17 months. We greatly appreciate these partnerships as we work together toward individual, family and community health and stability during an unprecedented experience.

Rachel V. Casey, Executive Director

#### AUGUST 12 TRIVIA NIGHT NEWS:

Trivia Night will follow City Protocols

#### **Pre-Purchase Chiefs Raffle Tickets**

Trivia Night will follow the City of KCMO's mask mandate. Masks and hand sanitizer will be available onsite. We will space team tables apart and attendees can stay within their team/table of 6.

CAC is now offering raffle tickets for the Nov. 7 Chiefs - Packers package (Section 124, Row 37, Seats 7 - 10, Red Parking Pass - \$1,000 value) for presale. Raffle tickets are \$50 each and only 100 are available. Click <u>HERE</u> to purchase online now before trivia night. Need not be there Aug. 12 to win, but we hope you are!

#### We are still accepting teams and sponsorships!

If you plan to bring a team, to ensure you have a table reserved register online <u>HERE</u> now! If you don't have a team of 6 (\$100) you can still join the fun for \$20 an individual and we'll find you a team. There will be audience participation activities including one just for elected officials! Fox 4's Mark Alford is the MC so you know it's going to be a fun evening! Purchase food onsite, donations cash bar. No outside food and drink please.

 $\cdot$  Get in the spirit with fun team name, "costume", table decorations. Go with a Games theme for bonus points.

Download PDF of reg/sponsor form <u>HERE</u>.

Contact Rachel Casey, <u>rachel.casey@cackc.org</u>, 816-763-3277 x 103 for more info.

#### Make a Donation – Make a Difference

- \$5 can provide fresh milk for a family for a month
- \$50 can provide food for a family for a month
- \$1000 can help a family avoid homelessness
- \$5,000 can provide full Thanksgiving or Christmas meals for 225 families.

To make a one-time donation or set up a monthly payment click <u>here</u>.

Call Rachel Casey at 816-763-3277 x 103 or email <u>Rachel.casey@cackc.org</u> to discuss ideas.

Community Assistance Council is the social services agency that covers South Kansas City, including all of Hickman Mills and Center School Districts, with a food pantry, Happy Bottom diapers and pull-ups, Giving the Basics hygiene items, KC Medicine Cabinet medicines and equipment, emergency rent and utilities assistance and limited case management. We'd love to give you a tour or provide a program for your organization!

# THIS COMMUNICATION IS SENT ON BEHALF OF T'RISA MCCORD, INTERIM PRESIDENT & CEO,

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORP OF KANSAS CITY, MO:

Dear Community & Neighborhood Association Leaders,

You are invited to participate in a virtual training session on economic development incentive tools presented by the Economic Development Corporation. Below is a link to register for this session, which will be held on Wednesday, August 18, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

If you prefer to schedule a separate training session to include your whole organization, please contact me separately at jquinn@edckc.com.

Please feel free to forward this message and invitation to your contacts and colleagues who may also be interested in attending.

EDC Economic Development Incentive Tools Training



# COME FOR THE SNOW

#### MoDOT IS NOW HIRING MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL

Right now, there are several full-time maintenance positions open across the state.

#### Salaries start at \$14.75 an hour and depend on level of experience and area of operation.

#### FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES RECEIVE:

- Full training
- Retirement benefits
- Paid leave
- Medical, vision and dental insurance
- A culturally diverse workplace that is dedicated to safety and personal development

If you're a service-oriented individual who is at least 18 years old and can successfully complete a criminal background check (a misdemeanor or felony conviction is not an automatic bar to employment) and drug screening, MoDOT wants you to consider a career to keep Missouri moving during the winter season and beyond.



Apply online at mocareers.mo.gov/modot.



# Important SNAP/Food Stamp Dates to Remember

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 reducedprice meals in the previous school year to <u>apply for Pandemic-Electronic Benefit</u> <u>Transfer (P-EBT) benefits by August 20, 2021</u>. 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 <u>dss.mo.gov</u>.

### **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 <u>MyDSS.mo.gov</u>, or sending a completed application and verification documents by email to <u>FSD.Documents@dss.mo.gov</u>, 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 <u>myDSS.mo.gov</u> 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**

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 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

**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.

**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.





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!