

This 30,000 square foot facility has numerous interactive exhibits designed to utilize the power of play to help children up to 10 years of age learn about science, technology, engineering art and math.

I can honestly say I have never seen anything like it. It is expected to

be a huge attraction for our area drawing children and their families from throughout the region to visit south Kansas City.

The new museum, which began entertaining and educating its first visitors this morning will be open from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. To follow safety protocols during the pandemic, guests will be required to reserve tickets in advance and choose a morning or afternoon session. Admission and reservation information is available on the museum's website at <u>www.wonderscope.org</u>.

Yesterday, a ceremony marked the completion of environmental cleanup at the 225-acre site of the now demolished Bannister Federal Complex on the north side of Bannister Rd. just east of Troost by the site's current owner, Bannister Transformation & Development.

A spokesman for the firm that also managed the demolition and cleanup of the site said construction equipment soon will begin moving onto the site to prepare to start construction of the first of seven large warehouse and industrial buildings that will contain about 2.6 million square feet of space and that are expected to create more than 1,500 permanent jobs at what will become a large industrial park.

It also will contain a training center for local job seekers.

The park, named the Blue River Commerce Center, will be developed by Riverside-based Northpoint Development that also developed the Three Trails Industrial Park on the south side of 87<sup>th</sup> St. just east of 71 Highway.

And also please pass the word that KCMO voters who live in the Jackson County portion of the city can cast absentee ballots in person at the two satellite voting locations in south Kansas City that are open now through October 31 at **United Believers Community Church**, **5600 E. 112th Terrace**, and at **Gregory Hills Church**, **7020 James A. Reed Road.** Their hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. Voters should bring identification.

Voters may vote absentee for specific reasons listed on the Kansas City Election Board's website <u>www.kceb.org</u> including absence from the KC Election Board's jurisdiction election day and being in an atrisk category for contracting COVID-19. Those categories are being 65 years of age or older; living in a licensed long-term care facility; being immunocompromised; and having chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma, chronic kidney disease and undergoing dialysis, diabetes, liver disease or serious heart conditions.

Please scroll down for announcements and updates about important upcoming community events and the good news that new statewide annual continuing education training in de-escalation techniques and recognizing implicit bias for law enforcement officers will become effective January 1, 2021, instead of a year later as originally proposed. This should improve interactions between law enforcement officers and members of the communities that they serve.

Email is probably the best way to reach my office. If you are unable to quickly reach me, my assistant <u>Brian Farmer</u> 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, October 23rd, 2020

#### GOVERNOR CALLS "LAME-DUCK" SESSION FOR AFTER ELECTION

In an unusual move, Gov. Mike Parson is calling lawmakers back to Jefferson City for a "lame-duck" legislative session to begin Nov. 5 – two days after a general election that could result in Parson also being rendered a "lame-duck" should he lose the governor's race to State Auditor Nicole Galloway.

Parson issued a proclamation calling the special session on Oct. 21 with the stated purpose of asking lawmakers to pass a supplemental budget bill to allocate federal coronavirus relief funds. However, when the General Assembly passed the FY 2021 state budget in May, it granted the governor broad authority to spend those funds, calling into question whether this special session is actually necessary.

By tradition, budget bills begin in the House of Representatives, which plans to open on Nov. 5 with a procedural session attended by only a few lawmakers and wait until Nov. 10 to convene in full session.

Although Parson said he expects the session to be over quickly, he said the same thing about the first special session he called this summer on crime-related legislation that lasted 51 days. In that session, the legislature only passed two of the seven bills Parson had requested, and only one was of statewide significance.

That bill was the bipartisan bill I co-sponsored to create a long overdue pretrial witness protection program in Missouri to encourage witnesses to testify in serious cases such as murders and other violent felonies when their pending testimony in some cases could jeopardize their lives.

Signed into law last month by Gov. Parson, that bill authorizes the Missouri Department of Public Safety to provide funding to law enforcement agencies for protection of specific witnesses. Agencies will need to apply for funding and outline how they intend to protect such witnesses and their immediate families and the projected cost of such efforts. This session would be the first "lame-duck" legislative session – one in which the departing legislature meets after a new legislature has been elected – in 50 years. Gov. Warren Hearnes called the last one following the 1970 elections to enact an income tax increase. Gov. Nixon initially called a "lame-duck" session in November 2014 to provide more funding for emergency response amid the Ferguson protests. However, Nixon quickly called it off after legislative leaders said he could use existing spending authority for that purpose.

#### AMENDMENT 3 SEEKS TO SCRAP 2018 REDISTRICTING REFORMS

Amendment 3, which Republican lawmakers placed on the Nov. 3 statewide ballot despite the opposition of Democratic and some Republican legislators, seeks to repeal the Clean Missouri redistricting reforms voters overwhelmingly approved in 2018.

Amendment 3 would abolish the position of non-partisan state demographer created by the Clean Missouri reforms and charged with drafting initial legislative redistricting plans that would go into effect at 10-year intervals unless they are disapproved by bipartisan redistricting commissions consisting of members nominated by the Republican and Democratic parties and appointed by the governor.

This would return the entire redistricting process to such commissions that tend to consist of political insiders who often have close ties to sitting legislators who they may wish to protect.

In the past, these commissions often have approved very oddly shaped legislative districts gerrymandered to help one political party or the other. In addition, Amendment 3 could be interpreted to exclude some residents from being counted for redistricting purposes since it eliminates provisions in the Missouri Constitution requiring districts to have populations as equal as practical based on census figures which count all residents,

Instead it says districts shall have populations as equal as practical drawn on the basis of one person, one vote measured by the "statewide population data being used" leaving out any reference to the census.

Questions have been raised about whether this could be used to exclude noncitizens, citizens who have lost their voting rights or even children from being counted. If so interpreted, this could result in districts that vary widely in their actual populations, thus granting some communities disproportionate representation at the expense of others. Metropolitan areas that tend to have much larger percentages of immigrants than most rural areas would be most adversely impacted by such a change.

Amendment 3 also would enact new legal hurdles that would make effectively challenging an unconstitutional redistricting plan nearly impossible. Instead of merely showing that a plan fails to follow constitutional requirements, which is fairly straightforward, a plaintiff would have to prove that he or she would suffer individual harm. Even if they were able to clear that high bar, a court could only alter a redistricting plan to the extent necessary to remedy the harm to that particular plaintiff.

As a result, if a redistricting plan was unconstitutional throughout – as was the case with a 2011 Senate redistricting plan struck down by the Missouri Supreme Court – dozens, if not hundreds, of plaintiffs would have to file separate lawsuits each addressing their individual claims. Since doing so

doesn't appear realistic, the practical effect of this Amendment 3 provision would be to block most legal challenges, no matter how blatantly a redistricting plan violated constitutional requirements.

Two other provisions unrelated to redistricting are included in Amendment 3. One is described in the ballot language as follows: "Ban gifts from paid lobbyists to legislators and their employees." But in actuality it would only replace an existing \$5 cap on the value of lobbyist gifts to lawmakers and their staffs enacted as part of the Clean Missouri reforms with a flat ban in most instances.

The other is described in the ballot language as follows: "Reduce legislative campaign contribution limits." It would only slightly lower the existing limit on individual campaign contributions to Senate candidates from \$2,500 per election to \$2,400, while leaving contributions to House candidates unchanged at \$2,000. (These are periodically adjusted for inflation.)

Two courts ruled the original ballot language Republican lawmakers crafted for Amendment 3 was intentionally misleading for completely failing to mention that the measure would repeal the 2018 redistricting reforms. Judges rewrote the ballot language to include that change but placed it at the end of the ballot language, after the language about these minor changes.



#### What to Know About Jackson County Question 1 for the November 2020 General Election Ballot

Fixes Jackson County's outdated 911 funding mechanism, which is supported entirely by a 7% landline surcharge.

Data shows that most 911 calls are made by CELLPHONES, but the system is wholly funded by LANDLINE users. This threatens emergency response with decreasing revenues.





Would impose a fee of up to \$1.00 on ANY device capable of contacting 911 (i.e. both landlines and cellphones). Fees will be included on telephone service bills, whether landline or cellphone.



This fee would REPLACE the current funding mechanism, not be in addition to it. Fee is based on each line, so if a household has multiple lines they will be assessed a fee of up to \$1.00 for each line every month.



Fees will be assessed based on the location/address associated with the cellphone account or landline within Jackson County.



The fee will be assessed on up to a MAXIMUM of 100 lines per location/address. If a business or organization has more than 100 lines, the fee will only be imposed on 100 lines.



Restricts the spending of the new fee revenues to the 911 system, so none of the funds can be spent for other purposes.



Broadens the funding base for 911 by including all users. Provides tax relief to landline users by decreasing their monthly fee from a 7% surcharge to a maximum of \$1.00 per line.



Creates a sustainable funding structure which will allow Jackson County to adequately and efficiently plan maintenance and upgrade costs. Would allow Jackson County to continue to make critical improvements and investments in the 911 system to keep up with changing mobile phone technology.



If Question #1 were to pass, and the Director of Revenue for the State of Missouri was notified promptly thereafter, the new fee would go into effect on April 1, 2021.



Information provided by the Jackson County Legislature, the Jackson County Clerk's Office, and Jackson County Communications

# MAYOR

# **Quinton Lucas**

#### KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - October 21, 2020

#### Mayor Lucas Statement on Homicide Record

**KANSAS CITY, Mo. –** Kansas City Mayor Quinton Lucas today released the following statement after Kansas City surpassed the all-time homicide record in one calendar year:

"We have seen 100 murders in Kansas City during all but seven of the full 36 years of my life. Almost 4,000 Kansas Citians murdered since 1984; all gone too soon. Too many of our fathers, brothers, mothers, and sisters have had their lives cut short due to violence. Although the trends nationwide have increased in the past several years, our problem in Kansas City has been with us for generations.

"Change, however, can and must be made. Over recent decades, murder rates dropped in Richmond by 40 percent; Omaha by 50 percent; and New York City, by over 80 percent from 1990 to today.

"Saving young lives, black lives, and all lives has to be a central goal of what we do each day as a city. I am heartbroken, but I resolve that by working in prevention and intervention we do not have to bury thousands more of our brothers and sisters over the decades ahead due to violence.

"Each person we've lost in 2020 was special, and my heart goes out to their families, friends, and all in our community touched by the pain: Cristobal, Rickey, Raidel, Patrick, Ronnie, Frank, Maije, Terrel, Keva, Tyron, Jalen, Daisy, Anthony, Roget, Linda, Christopher, Raymond, Shawndele, Tara, Andrew, Patrick, Jahmiere, Brandon, Lawrence, Jazmyn, Sage, Montez, Maxwell, Stacey, Jason, Derrick, Arlin, Kenneth, Michael, Henry, Antony, Briana, Deon, Larry, Shawn, Kyle, Chieynne, Lodiller, Diamon, Jayvon, Lewis, Sylvester, Marquice, Desimund, Billie, Michael, Charles, Pierre, Ky, Sharon, Darren, Valentino, Quindell, LeGend, Clyde, Romello, Paul, Jamie, Dejon, Marcus, William, Trinton, Matthew, Montel, Trevieance, Emmit, Ivory, Clarence, Marvin, Anthony, Destiny, Steven, Anton, Matis, Sarah, Victor, Tevin, Jevonte, Howard, Marvin, Jeremy, Scott, Carlos, Tyler, Cleveland, Michael, William, Charles, Mauricia, Terence, Frederick, Stan, Christopher, Kashawn, Anna, Larry, Martez, Daniel, Felipe, Monrico, Shea, Damen, Elijah, Travis, Montai, Gaklin, Thomas, Sammi, Stacey, Donnie, Barron, Michael, Manuel, Deandre, Joseph, Devin, Frederick, Devin, Devon, David, Antonio, Rolando, Kirin, Anthony, Derrick, Joshua, Christopher, Derrick, Richard, Lavance, Miguel, Phillis, Amanda, Chase, Jahron, Raeven, Bobby, Derrick, Tina, Georgia, Treshaun, DeAndre, Raphael, and Earl."

Anyone with any information on any homicide or shooting in Kansas City is urged to call the homicide unit at 816-234-5043 or the anonymous tips hotline at 816-474-TIPS. Anyone who provides information leading to an arrest is eligible for up to a \$25,000 cash reward.



Missouri Department of Public Safety **NEWS RELEASE** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE MICHAEL L. PARSON, GOVERNOR SANDY KARSTEN, DIRECTOR

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oct. 20, 2020

#### New training standards for Missouri law enforcement officers approved on emergency basis and take effect Jan. 1, 2021

Beginning in 2021, all officers will be required to take one hour each of deescalation and implicit bias training annually to maintain their licenses

JEFFERSON CITY – New training standards that require annual continuing education training in de-escalation techniques and recognizing implicit bias for law enforcement officers have been approved on an emergency basis by Missouri Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft's office, and will become effective Jan. 1, 2021. The new standards, which require one hour of continuing education training in de-escalation and one hour in implicit bias for officers to maintain their licenses, were approved by the Missouri Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Commission on Oct. 5, 2020.

"Our law enforcement officers take on extraordinary risks and make tremendous sacrifices to make Missouri safer," Governor Mike Parson said. "These enhanced standards will help equip officers with relevant, up-to-date training to meet the challenges they face daily and facilitate better communication and interactions with the public." "The POST Commissioners appreciate Secretary of State Ashcroft's office for its quick action allowing us to implement these new officer training standards so officers and all Missourians can benefit from the de-escalation and implicit bias training," said POST Commission Chair and Platte County Sheriff Mark Owen.

As required by state statute, the new POST training rules had to be filed with the Secretary of State and the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules. The normal rule making process could not have been completed in time for the new training requirements to take effect in 2021. The emergency approval means they can be implemented on an expedited basis. While the rules are in effect on an emergency basis, the normal rulemaking process and public comment period will occur. After the process is completed, the changes may become permanent.

Missouri law enforcement officers must complete 24 hours of annual continuing education training to maintain their licenses. The POST Commission's action on Oct. 5 required the one hour each in de-escalation and implicit bias training be part of each officer's 24 hours of annual training, not in addition to it.

The Commission is scheduled to next meet in Jefferson City on Dec. 15, 2020.



News from the City Communications Office

City of Kansas City, Missouri kcmo.gov

Call the health department to schedule your flu shot Lower your chances of getting the flu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Oct. 15, 2020

The health department is urging Kansas City residents to make appointments to take their flu shots as soon as possible because of the risk of getting the flu and COVID-19 at the same time.

To make an appointment, call 816-513-6108. The vaccination clinic is located at 2400 Troost Ave. Everyone in the building over two-years of age is required to wear a mask.

"Public health recommends everyone six-months and older receive a flu vaccination each year, unless they have a severe, life-threatening allergy to it. It is especially important this year, as it's possible to get both COVID-19 and the flu, increasing the dangers to one's health and life, and the lives of those they love," said Tiffany Wilkinson, manager of the Division of Communicable Disease Prevention and Public Health Preparedness.

Vaccines are available for both the uninsured and the insured. There will be no out-of-pocket cost for children and adults who are uninsured or under-insured,

or those with Medicaid or Medicare B. Those with Medicare Advantage plans will need to go to their primary care physician to be vaccinated.

The health department accepts most private insurance plans, and many insurance plans pay the full cost of the flu vaccine. If the private insurance plan is not accepted or does not pay full cost, the fee is \$23 for those six-months to 64-years old.

People over 65 who need a high-dose flu shot will be charged \$52 if their private insurance rejects the charge. The vaccine provides protection against four different flu virus strains, including two Influenza A and two Influenza B viruses. The health department encourages residents 50 years and older to also ask for the shingles vaccine.

Vaccinations will not be given on a walk-in basis.

Appointments are available: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 8 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Find more information on the flu shot at <u>kcmo.gov/health</u>.





# Satellite Locations and Times

#### October 13 – 31

Monday – Thursday: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Friday: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Saturday: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

> **Gregory Hills Church of God** 7020 James A. Reed Rd. Kansas City, MO 64133

#### United Believers Community Church 5600 E. 112<sup>th</sup> Ter. Kansas City, MO 64134

The Whole Person 3710 Main St. Kansas City, MO 64111

Union Station (Innovations Room) Level B, Suite 100 30 W. Pershing Rd. Kansas City, MO 64108

Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Center (Opens October 14) 3700 Blue Parkway Kansas City, MO 64130



#### **Child Care Subsidy**

If you have an eligible school-aged student who is not attending school in person, the Department of Social Services is extending fulltime child care subsidy benefits through December 31, 2020. The extension of this benefit, effective beginning September 1, ensures children remain safe and supervised during the school day and supports working parents to meet the demands of their jobs and stay employed

To increase your benefit:

Contact the Family Support Division by calling **855-FSD-INFO (855-373-4636)**.

If you are not receiving benefits and have a school-aged student not attending school in person, you can apply by:

1. Going online

2. Completing the <u>Child Care Application</u> and mailing it to your <u>local Family</u> <u>Support Division office</u>.

 Contacting the Family Support Division at 855-FSD-INFO (855-373-4636).

#### Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

If you are in crisis and need assistance with your summer cooling bills, you now have until October 31, 2020 to apply for the <u>Low-Income Home Energy</u>

<u>Assistance Program</u> (LIHEAP). This allows low-income Missourians more time to apply for the summer cooling program and remain safe in their homes.

The Department of Social Services also increased the income level for Missourians to qualify for help and added the option to apply online.

To apply for LIHEAP, complete and submit one <u>application form</u> online for your household. You can also mail or fax the completed paper application form to the office serving your community listed on last page of the application.





# **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. 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.

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 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. 133<sup>rd</sup> 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.



FREE TESTING CLINIC Testing symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals

Walk-ins welcome, appointments preferred



#### Monday - Friday 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Lunch will be held from 11:50 a.m. - 12:40 p.m., and there will not be testing during this time.

Visit jacohd.org/events to see dates + locations and to register.

Testing provided by the Jackson County Health Department

# **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.



# **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 <u>kcmo.gov/coronavirus</u>

### Missouri

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services is operating a <u>hotline</u> for residents and health care providers to call for information and guidance about COVID-19.

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

# UNEMPLOYMENT

#### How to File?

If you're eligible, you'll <u>need</u> the following:

• Your Social Security number;

- Any amount you were paid in the past week, before taxes and deductions;
- The name and mailing address of each job you worked in the past 18 months;
- The dates you started and ended work at each of those jobs.

If this is your first time filing for unemployment please watch <u>this video</u> on unemployment basics. Visit <u>uinteract.labor.mo.gov</u>, 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 umployment 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: <u>816-889-3101</u> or visit <u>Missouri Unemployment Website</u>

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 <u>www.KCcrimestoppers.com</u>, 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.





State Representative Mark A. Sharp

Missouri House of Representatives Room 109G 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!