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Dear

Neighbor,

I want to wish everybody a happy and safe Thanksgiving! **We all must do our part to minimize the spread of this potentially deadly COVID-19 virus which just this past weekend took the lives of two more of the Kansas City Fire Department's heroic employees – Captain Robert “Bobby” Rocha and Communication Specialist/Paramedic Scott Davidson.** Flags will be flown at half-staff at all fire stations throughout Missouri and at all government buildings on the Missouri side of the metropolitan area on Saturday, November 28, and Monday, November 30, to honor them by order of Governor Mike Parson. You can scroll down to read the governor's comments about their selfless service.

Billy Birmingham, a KCFD emergency medical technician, also lost his life due to the virus in April. He was the first known first responder in Missouri to die from the virus. Turning to legislative matters, the Missouri Senate Appropriations Committee is scheduled to meet Tuesday, December 1, to consider the \$1.28 billion supplemental spending bill passed by the House 133-4 on November 9. **That bill appropriates federal stimulus funds allocated to Missouri to assist the state in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and also includes \$2 million to implement the new statewide pretrial witness protection program created by bipartisan legislation I co-sponsored.**

I hope when the entire Senate convenes later December 1 that it promptly will

approve this vitally needed funding and send it to the governor for his signature to become law. If the Senate amends the measure it will come back to the House for consideration of the changes. The House is tentatively scheduled to convene the week of December 7.

Turning to local events, please scroll down to learn more about three upcoming events in south Kansas City to help persons in need.

From 4 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, December 2, persons are asked to bring new, unwrapped toys for children in need to a “Cram-A-Cruiser” event at the 7-Eleven, 10615 Blue Ridge Blvd., sponsored by 7-Eleven, Inc., in partnership with the Kansas City Police Department. Persons can get their pictures taken with Blue Santa, superheroes from Wonder League KC and Kansas City police officers and enjoy free coffee or hot chocolate and candy canes.

From 2 to 6 p.m. Thursday, December 3, persons are asked to bring new blankets for families in need and enjoy free hot cocoa and candy canes at a drive-through “Spread the Warmth” event with drop-off sites at the South Patrol Police Campus, 9701 Marion Park Dr., and at Newcomer’s Floral Hills Funeral Home, 7000 Blue Ridge Blvd.

From noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, December 19, at the International House of Prayer Camp & Training Center, 11700 Grandview Rd., persons in need may obtain children’s toys and essential personal care and winter items including hand sanitizer, masks, blankets, gloves, hats and socks and enjoy free hot dogs at a “Because We Care” event sponsored by numerous churches and community organizations. Persons must register by December 5 at the Hickman Mills Community Empowerment Center’s website www.hickmanmillscec.org.

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*



I chatted with David Price, right, a business consultant with 7-Eleven, Inc., who was instrumental in arranging a “Cram-A-Cruiser” toy drive for needy children at the 7-Eleven at 10615 Blue Ridge Blvd., on December 2 at last Saturday’s similar event in Grandview which completely filled a Grandview Police Department sports utility vehicle with nice children’s toys. I’m hoping our south Kansas City event will be as successful.

Missouri Governor — Michael L. Parson

Office of Communications

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 24, 2020

Governor Parson Announces Launch of New COVID-19 Vaccine Website for Missourians

(JEFFERSON CITY, MO) – As research and development of multiple COVID-19 vaccines continue to show promising safety and effectiveness findings, Governor Mike Parson today announced the launch of a new vaccine website for Missouri residents.

[MOPStopsCOVID.com](https://moplastopsCOVID.com) provides Missourians with information regarding the safety of the vaccines, research and production processes, and when they may be eligible for vaccination. The website will also offer additional functionality as vaccines become available.

“It’s been remarkable to learn about the work that has been going on for many months now among scientists and researchers, many of whom are right here in Missouri,” **Governor Parson** said. “The most important thing we’ve learned about the accelerated development process is that steps have not been eliminated but are instead occurring simultaneously. Safety is not being sacrificed, and it’s important for Missourians to understand this.”

The new website includes answers to common questions [Missouri residents](#) may have, such as when they will be able to receive the vaccine and how well it works. It also clarifies [misinformation](#) that citizens may have heard

about the vaccines.

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) and partners across the state continue to make preparations in advance of a vaccine arrival, which is anticipated to occur prior to the end of 2020. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices has identified the purposes of a COVID-19 vaccine as:

1. Decrease death and serious disease,
2. Preserve functioning of society,
3. Reduce extra burden that COVID-19 is having on people already facing disparities, and
4. Increase the chance for everyone to enjoy health and well-being.

A vaccine will initially become available in a limited quantity once it is proven safe and effective, approved for [Emergency Use Authorization \(EUA\)](#) by the FDA, and when the [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices \(ACIP\)](#) has provided its recommendations on the use of the vaccines.

In August, a large group of more than 75 state team members, 10 Missouri National Guardsmen, and 50 federal and local partners began working together to develop Missouri's [COVID-19 vaccine response plan](#). The plan was finalized and submitted to the CDC in October.

“Missouri got a very early start preparing for vaccinations because we think it’s our best path to getting to a better place,” **DHSS Director Dr. Randall Williams** said. “This process is one that has continued to evolve, and we are committed to providing Missourians with the information they need as quickly as we can provide it. Information is empowering, and personal choices made during this public health emergency can positively impact yourself, those around you, and your entire community.”

To learn more about COVID-19 vaccine developments, visit [MOStopsCOVID.com](#).

Missouri Governor — Michael L. Parson

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 25, 2020

Governor Parson Orders Flags to Fly Half-Staff in Honor of Kansas City Fire Department Communication Specialist / Paramedic Scott Davidson

(JEFFERSON CITY, MO) – Today, Governor Mike Parson ordered U.S. and Missouri flags be flown at half-staff at every fire station in the state of Missouri, the Fire Fighters Memorial in Kingdom City, and all government buildings in Cass, Clay, Jackson and Platte counties on Saturday, November 28, 2020, in honor of Kansas City Fire Department Communication Specialist/Paramedic Scott Davidson.

After a valiant fight, Communication Specialist/Paramedic Davidson died in the line of duty on November 22, 2020, following exposure to coronavirus while serving in his capacity as a firefighter.

“For more than 18 years, Communication Specialist/Paramedic Davidson served with the Metropolitan Ambulance Services Trust (MAST) and the Kansas City Missouri Fire Department. He served with a calming strength that gave others hope in the midst of difficult times,” **Governor Parson** said. “We are thankful for the sacrifices of the brave emergency responders who risk their own lives to protect the lives and property of their fellow citizens. Communication Specialist/Paramedic Davidson’s strong and true service will never be forgotten.”

The flags will be held at half-staff on the day Communication Specialist/Paramedic Davidson is laid to rest. To view the proclamation, click [here](#).

Missouri Governor — Michael L. Parson

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 25, 2020

Governor Parson Orders Flags to Fly Half-Staff in Honor of Kansas City Fire Department Captain Robert “Bobby” Rocha

(JEFFERSON CITY, MO) – Today, Governor Mike Parson ordered U.S. and Missouri flags be flown at half-staff at every fire station in the state of Missouri, the Fire Fighters Memorial in Kingdom City, and all government buildings in Cass, Clay, Jackson and Platte counties on Monday, November 30, 2020, in honor of Kansas City Fire Department Captain Robert “Bobby” Rocha.

After a brave fight, Captain Rocha died on Saturday, November 21 as a result of COVID-19 that he contracted this month while serving in his capacity as a firefighter.

“Throughout his 29-year career with the Kansas City Fire Department, Captain Robert Rocha lived by the highest ideals of the fire service – the safety of others, professionalism, teamwork, and sacrifice,” **Governor Parson** said. “The COVID-19 pandemic did not change Captain Rocha’s commitment to protecting others, as he and thousands of Missouri’s first responders continue to bravely and selflessly put their lives on the line to respond to emergency calls. We will never forget Captain Rocha’s faithful, noble service.”

The flags will be held at half-staff on the day Captain Rocha is laid to rest. To view the proclamation, [click here](#).

CRAM-A-CRUISE!

HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE

WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 2ND



4:00 - 6:00 P

10615 Blue Ridge Blvd, KCMO 6413

-  Bring new, unwrapped toy to donate
-  Enjoy a free small coffee or hot chocolate
candy cane with donation
-  Get your picture with Blue Santa,
local officers & SuperHeroes

THANK YOU!



Masks & Social Distancing enforced for everyone's s



Spread the Warmth

BLANKET DRIVE

Benefitting Families in Need



**THURSDAY
DEC 3RD**

2:00 - 6:00 PM

***Bring your NEW blanket donation
Enjoy hot cocoa & candy canes!***



Drive-through drop off:

**Newcomers Floral Hills Funeral Home
7000 Blue Ridge Blvd - KCMO 64133**

or

**KCPD - South Patrol
9701 Marion Park Drive - KCMO 64137**



LIVESTREAM CONCERT

Join star tenor Ben Bliss, his musical family including the band Barnaby Bright, and special guests in HOLIDAY BLISS, a free livestream concert presented by the Harriman-Jewell Series at 7 p.m. Saturday, December 12, 2020, performed at the 1900 Building, Mission Woods, Kansas. *The livestream concert is not ticketed and will not have an in-person audience.*

Because We CARE A HOLIDAY

Giveaway Event

11700 Grandview Road,
Kansas City MO 64137

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED
VISIT:

Hickmanmillscec.org

Registration ends:
Dec. 5th

SPONSORED BY:



December
19th
12-4pm

WHAT WE WILL PROVIDE

- ▶ Children's Toys
- ▶ Winter Essential Items (Gloves, Hats, Blankets, Socks, Hand Sanitizer, Face Masks)
- ▶ Free Hot Dogs

Need Help Paying for Internet?

The [Internet Access Support Program](#) has funds available to pay for

Internet service. If COVID has made it more difficult for you to afford Internet, the IASP can help you:

1. Establish new service
2. Pay off an old balance
3. Pay for ongoing service

The IASP can pay for up to 6 months of service. The program is only open to families with limited income. To qualify, you need to earn less than 2x the federal poverty rate.

Funds are limited and will be distributed on a first-come, first served basis. So do not wait. Apply now! Visit kccconnect.me or call **(816) 200-0599** to apply.

Face Masks available



**Neighborhood Leaders may requests masks
for distribution for their neighborhoods.**

Adult and Small Children Masks

Email: neighborhoods@umkc.edu



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 [Child Care Application](#) and mailing it to your [local Family Support Division office](#) .
3. Contacting the Family Support Division at **855-FSD-INFO (855-373-4636).**

Harvest Report



Select
Saturdays
9:00 AM - Noon

NOVEMBER
7th, 14th, 21st

DECEMBER
5th, 12th, 19th

JANUARY
2nd, 16th

FEBRUARY
6th, 20th

MARCH
6th, 20th

Winter Market

HJ's Community Center
6425 Wornall Road

SUSTAINABLE FARMS
ARTISAN FOOD
LOCAL PRODUCE
HOLIDAY GIFTS

sponsored by



www.brooksidefarmersmarket.com

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 five 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 District.

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.

Center High School, 8715 Holmes Rd., from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. as long as food is left on the third Saturday of the month. The event is sponsored by Three Trails Community church in partnership with the Center School District.

1 of 1



COVID-19

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 jacohtd.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 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.

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 unemployment 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

Anyone who has witnessed a violent crime is highly 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 Reward

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!**