

### Dear Neighbor,

I was extremely disappointed that the Missouri House this week on a near party line vote refused to provide funding for Medicaid expansion after Missouri voters approved adding Medicaid expansion to our state constitution last year.

I am still somewhat hopeful that this decision can be reversed in the Senate and that a majority of House members can be convinced to support funding expansion without having to resort to litigation. The General Assembly cannot overturn a constitutional provision without a vote of the people, and that is essentially what not funding Medicaid expansion is attempting to do.

On a positive, but much less significant note, I was gratified that the House on March 31 by a vote of 153-0 passed House Bill 100 I introduced with nine bipartisan co-sponsors to establish a special Negro Leagues Baseball Museum license plate to raise awareness of the Museum and funds for its operation.

The bill had earlier been recommended for passage as a consent bill by a 13-0 vote of the House Transportation Committee and by a 9-0 vote of the House Consent & House Procedure Committee. The bill has been sent to the Senate for consideration.

When enacted into law, the bill will allow persons who make a \$10 contribution to the Museum to purchase a set of the special plates for a

\$15 fee that will be added to their regular license fees. The plates will include the name of the Museum in capital letters and its logo.

Identical legislation has been introduced by Senator Barbara Anne Washington which passed the Senate 34-0 and is awaiting House approval, so the chances of one of these bills becoming law look extremely promising.

Please scroll down to see the great news that the Kansas City Health Department will be providing free COVID-19 vaccinations Tuesday-Friday, April 6-9, in south Kansas City at Smith-Hale Middle School in the Hickman Mills School District at 9010A Old Santa Fe Rd. (the site of the former Hickman Mills High School I attended).

The vaccination clinic for KCMO residents in Missouri's Phase 1A, Phase 1B or Phase 2 categories including people at high risk or in high risk occupations will be in the school's south parking lot and will be **open** from 10 a.m. to noon and from 1 to 4 p.m. those days.

The clinic will be prepared to administer up to 500 1st doses of the Moderna vaccine each day.

Persons should click on the attached link to schedule their appointment one of those days.

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* 



Representative Sharp urged members of the Missouri House to support legislation he sponsored with nine bipartisan co-sponsors to establish a special Negro Leagues Baseball Museum license plate to raise awareness of the Museum and funds for its operation. Following his speech and remarks by other supporters, the bill passed the House 153-0 on Wednesday, March 31, and was sent to the Senate for consideration.

### **WEEKLY CAPITOL UPDATE**

Friday, April 2, 2021

#### HOUSE REJECTS MEDICAID EXPANSION FUNDING

The Missouri House of Representatives on April 1 passed a \$32 billion state operating budget for the upcoming fiscal year that doesn't fund Medicaid expansion in a last-ditch attempt supported by the House Republican leadership to block a constitutionally mandated expansion of the program's eligibility threshold.

House Democrats made multiple attempts that I supported to restore the funding during debate on March 30, but all but a handful of Republicans opposed those efforts.

Because the state constitution now requires Medicaid to cover adults earning up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level, an estimated 275,000 additional uninsured Missourians will be eligible for the program starting July 1, and opponents can do nothing at this point to stop that. But by refusing to authorize the necessary spending authority for the expansion, it could cause the program to exhaust its funding partway through the 2022 fiscal year, which starts July 1.

Under the federal Affordable Care Act, the federal government will pay 90 percent of the cost of expansion, or about \$1.4 billion for FY 2022. In addition, Missouri would receive an additional \$1.5 billion under the most recently passed federal COVID-19 relief bill for implementing expansion. Prominent business organizations, including the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry, support accepting the funding because of the massive economic boost and

job creation that would result from infusing that much new revenue into the state's economy.

Gov. Mike Parson included the additional Medicaid funding in his state budget proposal and acknowledged that health care savings resulting from expansion and increased economic activity from the infusion of federal funds would be more than sufficient to cover the state's share.

If the Senate doesn't restore the funding and it isn't in the approved final budget, a lawsuit to enforce the constitutional requirement is considered almost certain.

The House's version of the budget includes \$2.27 billion less in spending authority than Parson requested, with the missing Medicaid funding accounting for most of it. The House also failed to include a number of other items requested by the governor, slashing about \$32.5 million in spending for mental health services and more than \$23 million for various education programs.

The House budget does provide sufficient spending authority to claim "full funding" of the statutory formula for distributing state aid to local public school districts. However, that is only because the legislature years ago moved the goal posts on what is considered "full funding" to cap the amount that has to be added to state aid every year that is supposed to cover inflation and other increased costs. The budget also underfunds K-12 school transportation funding by nearly \$183 million from what state law says it should be.

The Senate will craft its own versions of the 13 appropriations bills that make up the operating budget in the coming weeks and is expected to be much more generous in allocating federal coronavirus relief funding that the House left unused. House and Senate negotiators must then hammer out a compromise budget for the two chambers to agree to by the May 7 deadline.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG MONITORING ADVANCES

The years-long effort to adopt a statewide prescription drug monitoring program (PDMP) overcame a key hurdle on March 29 when the Missouri Senate granted a PDMP bill preliminary approval.

Missouri holds the dubious distinction of being the only state in the nation that doesn't have a statewide PDMP, a key tool to identify and reduce opioid dependency and abuse.

For eight straight years, PDMP legislation routinely passed the House of Representatives only to die in the Senate. But with the bill's previous House sponsor now a senator, the bill started in the upper chamber this year. A second vote is required to advance the measure, Senate Substitute for Senate Bill 63, to the House.

Opponents of a statewide PDMP have steadily lost leverage over the years as many Missouri counties including Jackson County joined a PDMP network started by St. Louis County in response to the legislature's continued inaction. The St. Louis County PDMP now covers about 90 percent of Missouri's population.

**HMC-1 Community**,

The COVID-19 vaccine is now available by appointment at Smith-

Hale Middle School through the KCMO Health Department. Appointments are available for Kansas City residents in Missouri's Phase 2, Phase 1B and Phase 1A, which includes people with high-risk conditions or occupations.

Click the link below to make an appointment:

https://www.kcmo.gov/cityhall/departments/health/schedule-yourcovid-19-vaccine



Representative Sharp joined two of his Missouri House colleagues Saturday, March 27, for a virtual town hall meeting to update area residents about key issues being debated in the Missouri General Assembly. Shown here at the town hall hosted by the Black Archives of Mid-America are, from left, moderator Greg Lever, Representative Yolanda Young, Representative Michael Johnson and Representative Sharp.



### Governor Parson announces special funding cycle to help Missouri's youth

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. - Today, Governor Mike Parson announced a special cycle of the Department of Economic Development's Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP) and Youth Opportunities Program (YOP), making \$21.8 million available to assist nonprofit organizations and other entities providing services to at-risk youth.

"Missouri nonprofits have been a lifeline for many Missourians throughout the COVID-19 crisis, providing critical services during times of uncertainty," Governor Parson said. "This program will help ensure that these organizations can continue providing Missouri's at risk-youth with the support and resources they need throughout the recovery process."

COVID-19 has had a massive impact on mental health for all citizens, including children. Anxiety, stress, and other negative conditions have

been on the rise, and these organizations provide resources and services that help children deal with these issues.

Up to \$8 million of NAP tax credits and \$6 million of YOP tax credits will be reserved for nonprofit organizations and other entities providing critical services to at-risk youth. Additional NAP and YOP credits are available for nonprofits addressing other pressing community needs with priority for job training programs and services directly resulting in crime prevention. Nonprofit organizations, faith-based organizations, Missouri businesses, local governments, and schools are all eligible entities for this program.

"Community organizations have played a huge role in supporting hard working Missouri families throughout the pandemic," Missouri Department of Economic Development Director Rob Dixon said. "We're proud to be able to use these funds to bolster these great organizations."

NAP and YOP are contribution tax credit programs. Approved applicants are awarded state tax credits to help attract eligible donors to fund an approved community development or youth opportunity project. Organizations approved for tax credits engage in fundraising activities and offer tax credits as an incentive to donate, raising the dollars necessary to complete the proposed project and address a critical community need.

The application cycle for the NAP/YOP Special Cycle will be held from March 31 to April 22.

To learn more about the NAP/YOP Special Cycle, click here.



**Library Giving Day** is an online fundraising event established to celebrate libraries nationwide. Donations made on Library Giving Day support the incredible programs, services, and materials libraries continue to provide to our communities. This year, Library Giving Day will take place on **April 7** during National Library Week.

Mid-Continent Public Library is proud to participate in Library Giving Day. We'll be **raising funds to purchase additional wi-fi hotspots** available for checkout through MCPL's new *Wi-Fi To Go* service.

During this difficult time, Mid-Continent Public Library has remained dedicated to *providing services to those in our community who need them most*. Many families in our community face barriers to accessing the internet. *Wi-Fi To Go* hotspots provide free internet service for up to two weeks and help our neighbors work from home, keep up with schoolwork, make telehealth visits, pay bills, apply for jobs, and more.

You can help us raise funds to purchase 20 additional wi-fi hotspots with service for circulation. All gifts made to the campaign, launching April 1, will be matched 1:1 by the Mid-Continent Public Library Foundation. That's right - your gift to the campaign between April 1 and April 7 will be *doubled*.

We hope you'll join us in celebrating Library Giving Day. Keep an eye out for the campaign launch announcement on **April 1**.



**SATURDAY APRIL 3, 2021** 



We are here to connect with the community in practical ways!

St. James UMC & St. Luke's UMC Rev. Steve

Dr. Emanuel
Cleaver III
Senior Pastor
Rev. Jackle McCall
Campus Pastor

(in partnership)
9420 James A Reed Rd
Main Parking Lot
2 pm to 4 pm
Live Music, games, activities and
special guests.

Rev. Steve Williams Senior Pastor



Questions, niessa contact Director Vestta Richards R16--R02--R234 or wichards@signoko.or





Don't forget to vote for our School Boards and the Earnings Tax on Tuesday, April 6th! Remember these local elections directly impact our neighborhood and community. Also, consider attending the 5th District meeting on Monday, April 5th. One of the topics will be the Earnings Tax. Please see the below Zoom details required to join the meeting.

WHEN: 6:00-7:30 p.m.
WHERE: ZOOM
DATE: Monday, April 5th, 2021
5th District Monthly Meeting

**Featured Speakers:** 

**Tammy Queen, Finance Director** 

**Topic: Earning Tax** 

Frank Thompson, Health Department Deputy Director

**Topic: COVID Vaccine** 

Megan Pfannenstiel, Municipal Court Director

**Topic: Department Overview** 

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

When: Apr 5, 2021 06:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

**Topic: 5th District April Monthly Meeting** 

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82328719519?pwd=NnZLTWI1anFhK2NoUkR2MVp3d01Wdz09

Passcode: 783258 Or One tap mobile :

US: +16465588656,,82328719519#,,,,\*783258# or

+13126266799,,82328719519#,,,,\*783258#

Or Telephone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 646 558 8656 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 669 900

9128 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799

Webinar ID: 823 2871 9519

Passcode: 783258

### JOIN KC SCHOLARS FOR

# Putting Social Justice to Work Jobs in Government and Civic Leadership

WHEN: APRIL 7, 2021 AT 5:30PM - 6:45PM

WHERE: Zoom

### Civic Leaders:

 Alissia Canady, Attorney, Chair of KC TIF Commission, Former Councilwoman

Mark A. Dupree, Sr., Wyandotte County District Attorney

Mayor Quinton Lucas, City of Kansas City, MO

Mark Sharp, Missouri State Representative
 Dr. De Angela Ruros-Wallace, Secretaru

 Dr. DeAngela Burns-Wallace, Secretary, State of Kansas

 Senator Barbara Anne Washington, MO State Senate

### Moderated by:

David Warm, Executive Director, Mid-America Regional Council

LEARN MORE AT: WWW.KCSCHOLARS.ORG/WORKFORCEEVENT



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Please join members from the South KC and Grandview Chambers of Commerce online via Zoom for our Joint Legislative Breakfast.

#### **Education**

During this Legislative Breakfast we will hear about the challenges both higher education and K-12 are facing as a result of the pandemic and what strategies local learning institutions are using to battle these challenges. Local legislators will also discuss education reform legislation being discussed this legislative session.

### Our Speakers:

**Zora Mulligan**, *State Commissioner of Higher Education* (confirmed)

**Dan Hocoy**, *President & Vice Chancellor, Metropolitan Community College* (confirmed)

**Dr. Kenny Rodrequez**, *Superintendent, Grandview School District* (confirmed)

Yaw Obeng, Superintendent, Hickman Mills School District (confirmed)

**Senator Lauren Arthur** (confirmed)

**State Representative Mark Sharp** (confirmed)

Friday, April 9, 2021 from 8:00 AM to 9:30 AM CDT

Add to Calendar

Cost: Free

Reservations requested by 4/8/2021

Register Now!

You must register to participate.

(Please mark your calendar and plan to logon if you register.)

You will receive a confirmation email with connection information

to join the Zoom meeting

For questions contact the Chamber at

816-761-7660 or <a href="mailto:vwolgast@southkcchamber.com">vwolgast@southkcchamber.com</a>

Sponsored by:

### VIRTUAL HIRING EVENT FOR HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STUDENTS

Not Registered? Create an account!
Already Registered? Update your account

# SAVE THE DATE APRIL 9, 2021

This year, the Hire KC hiring fair will feel more like a conference-style event - so you'll want to be there on time at the start, and flow through the kickoff instructions, and then attend the employer breakout sessions that interest you so you can explore and apply!

What you need to know:

- 1. Dozens of employers will come together to highlight and showcase open internships and seasonal jobs virtually.
- 2. Our goal is to jump start summer hiring, and open up access to private, public and nonprofit companies to all the youth of our City.

- 3. This event is free and open to all pre-registered young people. Though the event is virtual, you will still be on camera. Be sure to dress business professional. Do your best to prepare by researching employers based on the list provided to you in advance.
- 4. This 3-hour-long event will provide ample time to share resumes, schedule interviews, fill out job applications and learn about all the opportunities offered across the Greater Kansas City Metro.

In order to apply for any open internships and jobs, you will need to first create a Hire KC student account - so get started here.

Student Registration is FREE.

**Register Now** 

### MCPL Celebrates National Library Week, April 4 – 10

### Library Offers Virtual Art Workshops and Prize Giveaways During Festivities

Greater Kansas City, MO – Mid-Continent Public Library is celebrating National Library Week, April 4 – 10, with the return of its annual "Access Art" workshops as well as prize giveaways. MCPL's theme for this year's National Library Week is "Libraries Empower Communities," and the Library is inviting everyone to stop by their local MCPL branch to discover how their Library can empower their life! **Beginning Monday, April 5, MCPL branches will be giving away free tote bags, while supplies** 

last, to customers who come in to check out items and use Library services.

"Each year, we like to take a week to recognize all the different ways libraries support their communities and remind folks about the amazing resources and services that are available to them," said Ritchie Momon, MCPL's Chief Customer Experience Officer. "Mid-Continent Public Library, and all libraries, exist to connect their customers to the tools they need to reach their goals—whether that goal is to get a degree, find a job, learn something new, or simply find a great book to read."

Throughout the week, the Library will also bring back its annual Access Art program series, which offers instructional art classes for all ages. This year's Access Art is completely virtual, with classes being held on the Library's <a href="MCPL360 Facebook page">MCPL360 Facebook page</a> or through Zoom. Art supply lists are included in the event descriptions on the Library's website (mymcpl.org/AccessArt), so attendees can participate in the classes at home. Additional information and registration are available online as well.

Registered participants at each Access Art class will have their name entered in a prize drawing! Adults will have the opportunity to win an Access Art t-shirt, and kids can win a Crayola Create 'N Carry Art Set.

Learn more about National Library Week at MCPL and all the things the Library can do for you at mymcpl.org/Empower! Here are just a few of the Library's free resources and services you might not know about:

- Wi-Fi services, including mobile hotspot checkout through the Library's new Wi-Fi To Go service
- Small business and career support through MCPL's Square One Small Business Services
- Family history research at MCPL's Midwest Genealogy Center
- Writing and storytelling resources through The Story Center
- Homework help resources
- Earn a high school diploma through Career Online High School
- Mobile and Remote Printing at select MCPL locations

Public Computers	



## 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, April 14, 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 <a href="mailto:jquinn@edckc.com">jquinn@edckc.com</a>.

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** 



### MISSOURI EMERGENCY RENTAL ARREARS PROGRAM

The state of Missouri's new rental assistance program using funding through the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) was passed by Congress in December 2020. On February 11, 2021 Governor Parson signed HB 16 into law, which provides more than \$324 million in funding for rental and utility assistance for Missourians. Missouri Housing Development Commission will administer this funding under the State Assistance for Housing Relief (SAFHR) program. Please click below for more information.

### Please Click Here For Program Information

Please note that the Missouri Emergency Rental Arrears Program (ERAP) is a separate program from above, and is utilizing ESG-CV funding authorized through the CARES Act. This program is open to landlords seeking rental arrears for qualified tenants.

Please Click Here For Program Information

### **COVID-19 VACCINE CLINIC**



(877) 435 - 8411

https://covidvaccine.mo.gov/navigator/

**VACCINATIONS FOR THOSE 65 AND OLDER** 

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

4401 E. BLUE PARKWAY, KANSAS CITY, MO 64130



To Register for Vaccination Use your smartphone camera on this code.

KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE





March 31, 2021

### **Food Appointments Available**

CAC has food appointments available 9 to 2:30 pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. This month after-hours are 4 - 6 pm, Wednesday, April 21 and 9 am to noon, Saturday, April 24. Call 816-763-3277 x 100 for a food appointment. Hygiene items are distributed with food. Happy Bottoms diapers and pull-ups are available without an appointment 9 am to 2:30 pm, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Call 816-763-3277 x 100 to register for diapers.

#### **Basic Financial Literacy Class:**

### 1 - 2 pm, Tuesday, April 27

This class on basics of financial literacy is free and open to anyone.

- · Presented by Pauline Eatmon-Johnson, Business Owner and Consultant, Scholar Smarts,
- · Register for class HERE for ZOOM or phone link.
- · Contact Julie Reid, <u>julie.reid@cackc.org</u>, 816-763-3277 x 110 with questions.

### **CAC Showing Brilliance in Resilience in 2020**

CAC is thrilled to be one of three KC area nonprofits selected as a finalist for the Nonprofit Connect small nonprofit Brilliance in Resilience award - recognizing how CAC turned obstacles into opportunities in 2020!. We hope you had a chance to vote! Join us May 12 for the virtual Philly Awards to learn the winners in each category! Link **HERE**.

### **Emergency Rent, Utilities Assistance Update**

In response to the requirements of our current emergency rent and utilities assistance, funding, all requests for rent and utilities assistance must start by filling out the application on the City of KCMO website

- https://gkcassistanceprogram.org/. That site can also be accessed through CAC's website HERE. South Kansas City residents can select CACSomeone who does not have internet access may leave one message with detailed information on CAC's Emergency Assistance line at 816-763-3277 x 108. We know there is critical need right now, but following this process will help us serve as many as possible. Thank you.

### Save the Date - Community Cleanup June 12

Sixth District Community Cleanup Day will be 8 am to noon, June 12. Locations and more details to come.

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!

### 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

**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 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

**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.

### **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 tokcmo.gov/coronavirus

### **Missouri**

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services is operating a <a href="https://hotsler.com/hotline">hotline</a> 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.



### The April 2021 issue of Kansas City's Most Wanted is now available.

Your monthly delivery of Kansas City's Most Wanted is here! Take a look at this month's local fugitives and see if you recognize anyone. If so, submit an anonymous TIP and you could receive a cash reward! No one will ever know except you.

TIPS can be anonymously submitted via the following methods:

- The TIPS Hotline at 816-474-TIPS (8477)
- Online at <u>www.kccrimestoppers.com</u>
- The P3 Mobile App

Thank you for your continued support of the Greater Kansas City Crime Stoppers program.

**View Now** 



### REMAIN ANONYMOUS • RECEIVE CASH REWARDS



TIPS HOTLINE

816-474-8477



WEB TIPS

KCcrimestoppers.com



P3Tips.com



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**Email** 

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Please don't hesitate to contact me with any feedback, questions or ideas!