



**State Representative  
Mark A. Sharp  
District 37**

## **WEEKLY CAPITOL UPDATE**

**Wednesday, March 6, 2024**

### **TREASURER PULLS GAMBLING MACHINE ADS**

**Throughout a blistering, two-hour bipartisan interrogation on Feb. 27, State Treasurer Vivek Malek remained committed to his decision to advertise on unlicensed gambling devices deemed illegal slot machines by the Missouri Gaming Commission and**

## **State Highway Patrol.**

**Later that day, however, he suddenly backed down and said he has asked for the ads' removal.**

**At issue are decals featuring Malek's name under a variant of the official state seal that promote the treasurer's unclaimed property program. The decals have been placed on hundreds of video lottery terminals, which operate like slot machines and have proliferated throughout the state in recent years in gas stations, bars and other locations.**

**The highway patrol has seized and destroyed VLTs in jurisdictions where prosecutors have been willing to file charges, but some prosecutors claim the machines fall into a legal gray area and refuse to pursue cases.**

**The House General Administration Appropriations Subcommittee summoned Malek to testify about the ads, the existence of which became widely known a week earlier. Committee members repeatedly expressed concerns that the ads are designed to create the impression that the machines are sanctioned by the state.**

**During his testimony, Malek conceded the legality of VLTs is disputed but said that unless the Missouri Supreme Court definitively rules the machines are**

**illegal he would continue allowing the ads. Malek repeatedly refused to back down after lawmakers of both parties grilled him about the questionable ethics of his position. Hours after the hearing ended, however, Malek abruptly reversed course.**

**“I have today revoked permission for Torch Electronics to display Unclaimed Property messages on their devices, and I have asked Torch Electronics to immediately begin the process of removing any reference to the Unclaimed Property Program from Torch’s devices,” Malek said in a letter to the subcommittee’s chairman, as reported by various news outlets.**

**Torch Electronics is a main VLT supplier in Missouri and client of influential lobbyist Steve Tilley, a former House speaker. During his testimony, Malek said he authorized Torch to use decals bearing his name and seal of office during an August meeting with Tilley and Torch’s president at a Chesterfield airplane hangar Tilley owns.**

**Malek said Torch, not taxpayers, paid for the decals. Committee members countered that while the deal might not have cost the state money, it severely damaged the state’s image and reputation.**

**Gov. Mike Parson appointed Malek as state treasurer**

**in January 2023 to fill a vacancy. Malek, who had never previously held elected office, is seeking election to a full term this year but is running in a crowded Republican primary against more experienced officeholders.**

## **DEFUNDING PLANNED PARENTHOOD TRIED AGAIN**

**The House of Representatives on Feb. 28 granted first-round approval to legislation seeking to block Planned Parenthood from receiving reimbursements from the state's Medicaid program. A second vote is required to send the bill to the Senate.**

**Because abortion is illegal in Missouri in nearly all circumstances, none of Planned Parenthood's Missouri clinics perform the procedure and instead focus on other women's health care services, including general care, cancer screenings and contraception.**

**However, some Republicans in the legislature for years have unsuccessfully sought to defund the Missouri clinics since Planned Parenthood still offers abortions in states where the procedure remains legal.**

**Federal law has long prohibited Medicaid funds from paying for abortion services.**

**The Missouri Supreme Court twice in recent years - once in 2020 and once just last month - has ruled the legislature's efforts to defund Planned Parenthood through the budget process are unconstitutional. The court in both cases cited longstanding precedent that appropriations bills must be limited to appropriating funding and cannot also set policy without violating the Missouri Constitution's prohibition against bills containing multiple subjects.**

**House Bill 2634 attempts to get around that constitutional prohibition by creating a general statute purporting to prohibit Medicaid reimbursements to health care facilities affiliated with out-of-state abortion providers. However, the bill appears to violate federal requirements that states must allow willing providers of Medicaid-eligible services to participate in the program.**

## **FUNDING ADVANCES TO SEND TROOPS TO TEXAS**

**The House Budget Committee on Feb. 28 approved a \$2.2 million emergency supplementary appropriations bill to provide funding for Gov. Mike Parson's plan to send 200 more Missouri National Guard soldiers and 22 State Highway Patrol troopers to the Mexican**

**border to assist with Texas Gov. Gregg Abbott's state effort to block migrants from entering the country.**

**Some Democrats questioned the wisdom of spending Missouri taxpayer dollars on what is seen by some as more of a political show than an effective effort to address the problem of illegal immigration.**

**Some also noted that about 250 Missouri Guard troops are already at the border under the command of the federal government, not the Texas state government, and expressed concern about the possibility of the missions of the two Missouri forces coming into conflict.**

**The funding provided by House Bill 2016 would be for the remainder of the 2024 fiscal year, which runs through June 30. Some lawmakers questioned the need for an emergency appropriation since there is an existing and untapped \$4 million appropriation in the regular FY 2024 state budget that the Guard could use for this purpose.**

**The committee ultimately approved HB 2016 on a vote of 25-4, with one member voting present. It now advances to the full House of Representatives for consideration.**

## **BILL EXCLUDES TRANSGENDER PEOPLE**

**Transgender people would legally cease to exist under legislation the House Emerging Issues Committee approved Feb. 28 on a 9-4 party-line vote with Republicans in support and Democrats opposed. The bill next advances to the full House of Representatives for debate.**

**House Bill 2309 would statutorily define people as “male” or “female” based on their reproductive systems at birth. It also would define terms such as “man”, “woman”, “girl”, “boy”, “mother” and “father” in ways that would exclude legal recognition of transgender people.**

**The committee on Jan. 17 held a nine-hour public hearing on HB 2309 and six other bills targeting transgender rights. Testimony at the hearing was dominated by Missourians opposed to the legislation, with only a relative handful of witnesses in support.**



**I enjoyed having the opportunity to introduce my father, former KCMO City Councilman, Missouri State Representative and Hickman Mills School Board member John Sharp at an event February 24 at the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum celebrating his 80 years of life and over 50 years of service to south Kansas City as an elected official and volunteer community leader. We asked the more than 180 persons attending to please not bring presents, but instead to consider donating to the Hickman Mills**



**Educational Foundation for a scholarship in his name given annually to a Ruskin High School senior involved in student government or community service and raised over \$5,000 for the scholarship.**

# Kansas City United For Safety

## Public Safety Symposium and Community Forum

Join us as we bring together elected officials, community leaders, law enforcement, neighborhood and grassroots organizations, health professionals, educators, business leaders, violence prevention specialists and academic scholars to discuss strategies and collective actions to reduce gun violence in Kansas City. Our goal is to update local strategies, review national best practices and further develop and build on one comprehensive plan that we can all support.

Event is free, but registration is required.

**Public Safety Symposium  
for Organizations and Businesses focused on  
Creating a Safe and Thriving Community**

**Friday, March 15th, 8:30A - 4:30P**

Kauffman Foundation Conference Center  
4801 Rockhill Rd, Kansas City, MO 64110

**Public Safety Community Forum  
for Community Members focused on  
Creating Safe and Thriving Communities**

**Saturday, March 16th, 8:30A - 3:30P**

Kauffman Foundation Conference Center  
4801 Rockhill Rd, Kansas City, MO 64110



Scan to register  
for FREE or go to  
<https://bit.ly/KCUPS24>



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



\*5th District-Wide Clean-Up Sponsored by Councilmembers Ryana Parks-Shaw and Darrell Curis



# May 18,\* June 29, Neighborhood Clean-Ups

Trash, Bulky Items, Tires (w/wo rims), Leaves, Limbs & Debris,  
Reusable Household Items + Electronics (prices below)

**Saturday 8 AM - Noon** 8434 Paseo & 8131 Indiana



Volunteers Needed! Help us direct vehicles at 8434 Paseo for a 1.5 hour shift.  
Or pick up litter for a neighbor who is unable to come!  
To help, email [sarah@wearemarlborough.org](mailto:sarah@wearemarlborough.org) or call 816.866.6279



## No \$\$ to recycle most electronics with the exceptions of:

- CRT Monitors = \$5.00 each
- CRT TV's 26" or less = \$30.00 each
- CRT TV's 27" or greater = \$50.00 each
- Wood Console and True Big Screen/Projection TV's = \$50.00 each
- LED/LCD/Plasma TV'S = \$20.00 each
- Any Freon containing unit = \$10.00 each



CITY OF  
KANSAS CITY,  
MISSOURI

**MARLBOROUGH EAST**  
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



**SCHOOL**  
**CENTER**  
**DISTRICT**

**WALNUT GROVE**  
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Marlborough Community Coalition | [wearemarlborough.org](http://wearemarlborough.org) | 816.866.6279 | [sarah@wearemarlborough.org](mailto:sarah@wearemarlborough.org)

# Community **CRIME** MEETING



**March 19**



**7 p.m.**



**Annex Building  
9701 Marion Park Drive  
Kansas City, MO**



**SOUTH PATROL DIVISION**

# RECYCLE



 [KCMO.GOV/RECYCLE](http://KCMO.GOV/RECYCLE)  




## PAPER

*all colors and types*



## CARTONS

*empty and clean*



## CANS

Aluminum and  
Steel Cans  
*empty and dry*



## PLASTIC

Plastic Bottles,  
Jars and Jugs  
*empty and dry*

## DO NOT RECYCLE!



## WE'RE HIRING!!!!

### MAKE AN IMPACT IN KANSAS CITY

Police Officer \* Detention Officer \* Parking Control \*  
Communication Specialist \* Fleet Operations \* Building  
Operations \* Analyst \* Administrative and Fiscal  
Administrators \* THE LIST GOES ON!!!!

[www.careers.kcpd.org/](http://www.careers.kcpd.org/)

# Want lower electric bills?

**Share the Sun** can help. Share the Sun is a free solar energy program to reduce energy burdens. Eligible homeowners can receive a 10-panel, 4-kW solar energy system with a 25-year warranty at no cost. Go to [www.info.solarcrowdsource.com/skc-share-the-sun](http://www.info.solarcrowdsource.com/skc-share-the-sun) for more information and to apply.

DO YOU QUALIFY?

YOUR ROOF MUST BE LESS THAN  
**10**  
YEARS OLD

YOU MUST OWN & OCCUPY YOUR HOME

YOU MUST LIVE IN  
**KCMO**

YOU MUST MAKE LESS THAN  
**60% AMI\***

Household Size	2021 Household Income
1	\$40,680
2	\$46,500
3	\$52,320
4	\$58,080
5	\$62,760
6	\$67,380
7	\$72,060
8	\$76,680

\*AREA MEDIAN INCOME



Share the Sun is brought to Kansas City, MO by the following organizations with generous support from the KCMO Government and Metropolitan Energy Center



Westside Housing



Scan for more information



## SPORTS, COOKING & ARTS

Every Wednesday Night  
5:00 - 7:00 PM

- Open to Ages 8-15
- Dinner Provided

9701 Marion Park Drive | KCMO 64137  
2ND BUILDING ON CAMPUS IN THE GYM



For more information contact PO McCall at  
[mary.mccall@kcpd.org](mailto:mary.mccall@kcpd.org) or (816) 672-2828

# WE'RE HIRING!

**AmeriCorps VISTA**  
for the  
Marlborough Conservancy

**Apply online**



Or email [sarah@wearemarlborough.org](mailto:sarah@wearemarlborough.org)  
for more information!





**LINC**  
Local Investment Commission

# Part-Time Child Care Jobs Now Hiring!

North Kansas City  
Kansas City Public Schools  
Center  
Hickman Mills  
Grandview

## LINC Caring Communities Sites

Contact: Carol Green, (816) 739-9314, [cgreen@klinc.org](mailto:cgreen@klinc.org)

Apply: [klinc.org/jobs](http://klinc.org/jobs)



MEMORIAL CHURCH INTERNATIONAL

**FOOD**

**Pantry**

**MCI**  
MEMORIAL CHURCH

11424 HICKMAN MILLS DR. KCMO 64134

**HOURS OF OPERATION**

**2ND & 4TH WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH :  
2PM - 5PM**

**EMERGENCY NEEDS BY APPOINTMENT  
CONTACT: MCI 816.363.7940**

**EMERGENCY AFTER HOURS:  
CALL UNITED WAY AT 211**



**WWW.MCIKC.ORG - 816.363.7940**

## **South KC Food Pantries**

South Kansas City is fortunate to have several food pantries to help less-fortunate residents have enough healthy food to eat. These

include:

**Community Assistance Council**, 10901 Blue Ridge Blvd. on the north end of the Ruskin High School campus, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Persons should call 816-763-3277, ext. 100, or email [info@cackc.org](mailto:info@cackc.org) for appointments or questions.

**Red Bridge Area Food Pantry**, 100 W. Red Bridge Rd. in the First Baptist Church of Kansas City, from 10 a.m. to noon on the third Saturday each month. Persons must call 816-908-7800 for appointments by the prior Wednesday.

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 School District**, 8701 Holmes Rd., from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. as long as food is left on the first 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.

**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. 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.

**Red Bridge United Methodist Church**, 636 E. 117<sup>th</sup> St., from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. on the fourth Friday of the month in the church parking lot.

**Serve and Lift Center – South KC**, 8001 Longview Rd., from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Walk-in, call for an appointment or order online at <https://catholiccharities-kcsj.org/pantry/>



**REMAIN ANONYMOUS • RECEIVE CASH REWARDS**



**TIPS HOTLINE**

**816-474-8477**



**WEB TIPS**

**KcCrimestoppers.com**



**FREE MOBILE APP**

**P3Tips.com**



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

