

The Chamber

View

Quarterly Newsletter



Welcome 2020!

Jan/Feb/Mar 2020

Charter Members

The Independence Chamber of Commerce is grateful to our Charter members for their ongoing support, which allows us to offer programs and events that help our city and members grow and prosper.



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210 West Truman Road
Independence, MO 64050
816-252-4745
www.iChamber.biz

FEBRUARY LUNCHEON

Guest Speaker



Zach Walker
City Manager

Plan to attend the February Membership Luncheon, where we will hear remarks from City Manager Zach Walker as he presents the State of the City Address.

When:

Wednesday
February 19, 2020
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Where:

Stoney Creek Hotel
18011 Bass Pro Drive
Independence, MO 64055

PRESENTING SPONSOR





100 CELEBRATION

PRESENTED BY:



SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

ARROWHEAD STADIUM
JANUARY 18, 2020
6:00-9:00 PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR
TO PURCHASE TICKETS VISIT
WWW.ICHAMBER.BIZ OR CALL
(816) 252-4745



Featured Speaker
DAVID KOECHNER

WWW.ICHAMBER.BIZ | 816.252.4745

Calendar of Events

JANUARY 6

PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
3:30 PM - 4:30 PM
Chamber of Commerce
210 W. Truman Road

JANUARY 7

IN BIZ RESOURCE COMMITTEE MEETING
8:30 AM - 9:30 AM
Drury Inn & Suites
20300 E 42nd Street S.

JANUARY 8

BOARD MEETING
8:00 AM
Chamber of Commerce
210 W. Truman Road

JANUARY 9

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
4:30 PM-6:00 PM
Midwest Genealogy Center
3440 S Lee's Summit Road



JANUARY 10

EGGS & ISSUES
7:30 AM-9:15 AM
Ennovation Center
201 N Forest Ave



JANUARY 14

AMBASSADORS COMMITTEE MEETING
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM
Chamber of Commerce
210 W. Truman Road

JANUARY 15

RIBBON CUTTING
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Crown Services
4201 S Noland Road

JANUARY 17

MARKETING COMMITTEE MEETING
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Chamber of Commerce
210 W Truman Road

JANUARY 18



6:00-9:00 PM
Arrowhead Stadium North Club
1 Arrowhead Drive

PRESENTED BY:



Featured Speaker
DAVID KOECHNER



JANUARY 22

RIBBON CUTTING
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Bridge Space
210 SW Market Street
Lee's Summit, MO 64063

JANUARY 24

FOODIE FRIDAY
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Carrabba's Italian Grill
19900 Valley View Pkwy

JANUARY 29

iMEMBERSHIP 101
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM
Chamber of Commerce
210 W. Truman Road

JANUARY 30

RIBBON CUTTING
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Planet Fitness
2337 S Route 291

JANUARY 31

FOODIE FRIDAY
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Zarda Bar-B-Q & Catering
214 N 7 Hwy
Blue Springs, MO 64014

FEBRUARY 3

PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
3:30 PM - 4:30 PM
Chamber of Commerce
210 W. Truman Road

FEBRUARY 4

IN BIZ RESOURCE COMMITTEE MEETING
8:30 AM - 9:30 AM
Drury Inn & Suites
20300 E 42nd Street S.

FEBRUARY 5

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
8:00 AM
Chamber of Commerce
210 W. Truman Road

FEBRUARY 8

YIP's SOCIAL EVENT: MAVERICK'S GAME
7:05 PM - 10:00 PM
Silverstein Eye Centers Arena
19100 E Valley View Pkwy

FEBRUARY 11

AMBASSADORS COMMITTEE MEETING
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM
Chamber of Commerce
210 W. Truman Road

FEBRUARY 12

BOARD MEETING
8:00 AM
Chamber of Commerce
210 W. Truman Road

FEBRUARY 18

SPEAKER SERIES
11:30 AM-1:00 PM
Chamber of Commerce
210 W. Truman Road



TOPIC:
You Should Start a Podcast!



GUEST SPEAKER:
Paul LeVota

Podcasting has become an increasingly popular way to tell stories and promote your brand. Paul will share his experience as a former public official and podcast / streaming radio talent / producer (www.kctkradio.com) with you.

FEBRUARY 19

MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Stoney Creek Hotel

Be sure to join us for the February Membership Luncheon, where we hear from City Manager Zach Walker for the State of the City Address.



PRESENTING SPONSOR

FEBRUARY 21

MONTHLY LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING
8:30 AM - 9:30 AM
Chamber of Commerce
210 W. Truman Road

FEBRUARY 25

EJC CHAMBER DAY AT THE CAPITOL
8:00 AM
Jefferson City, MO

FEBRUARY 27

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS
4:30 PM - 6:00 PM



Main Event
4600 S Cochise Ct
Independence, MO 64055

SPONSORED BY:



MARCH 2

PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
3:30 PM - 4:30 PM
Chamber of Commerce
210 W. Truman Road

MARCH 3

IN BIZ RESOURCE COMMITTEE MEETING
8:30 AM - 9:30 AM
Drury Inn & Suites
20300 E 42nd Street S.

MARCH 10

AMBASSADORS COMMITTEE MEETING
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM
Chamber of Commerce
210 W. Truman Road

MARCH 11

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
8:00 AM
Chamber of Commerce
210 W. Truman Road

MARCH 18

MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Adam's Mark Hotel
9103 E 39th Street

Be sure to join us for the March Membership Luncheon, where we hear from Toby Cook, Vice President of Publicity for the Kansas City Royals!



PRESENTING SPONSOR

rachel house
pregnancy resource centers

MARCH 20

MONTHLY LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING
8:30 AM - 9:30 AM
Chamber of Commerce
210 W. Truman Road

MARCH 26

BUSINESS BEFORE HOURS
7:30 AM - 9:00 AM



Phoenix Home Care & Hospice
14330 E 42nd St S

SPONSORED BY:



We're looking forward to seeing you at these Chamber networking events

Register for these events or for more information, please visit
www.iChamber.biz



A message from the Chair

Over the holidays, I watched the movie "Miracle." It tells the story of the U.S. Men's Hockey Team's run in the 1980 Olympics. It's an inspiring film that'll make the toughest guy sob. One of the best parts of the movie, I believe, is the quotes that are in it. "Great moments are born from great opportunity" and as an Independence Chamber member, you have many great opportunities to help make the Chamber stronger in 2020. As I list the priorities of our Chamber in 2020 below (in no particular order), please consider where your interests are and what talents you can bring to "Play YOUR game."

- Restart exploration of a Festival Park concept that would bring a permanent facility for the annual SantaCaliGon Festival, as well as other community events throughout the year.
- Address the issue of Quality and Affordable Housing and safe neighborhoods, with the goal of developing new opportunities for homeownership.
- Explore the feasibility and development of community-owned broadband to provide high-speed data services to all residents and businesses. There is an existing backbone of fiber already in place.
- Enhance visibility and exposure for members.
- Chamber for All/Inclusivity. We want to make sure as an organization that we are meeting the needs of our members regardless of their size or level of membership.

Membership is the backbone of what we are, and a 100 members-in-100-days campaign (for our 100th year!) will be the focus of the first part of the year. Please invite a guest to a Chamber event. Again. Again. Again.

This is our time. The next 100 years start right now.

Sonci Bleckinger
Your 2020 Chamber Board Chair

2020 | Legislative Agenda



Our Legislative Agenda is developed by the Public Policy Committee and communicates the Chamber's positions on issues at the state, local and federal levels of government. Working together with various legislative organizations helps promote public policy decisions that reflect the priorities of the Independence business economy. Below is our stance on our economy's pressing issues, as of January 2020.

PRIORITY

- Support an initiative petition that allows a Medicaid solution in Missouri that closes the coverage gap, prevents the loss of health care jobs in Eastern Jackson County, maintains and advances access to Medicaid coverage for low-income, vulnerable and uninsured residents, and avoids a reduction in health care services offered within the community.
- Continue to support full funding of early childhood education and the A+ program.
- Support legislation increasing the bond capacity of public-school districts from 15% to 20%.
- Support current law which limits charter schools to Kansas City and St. Louis school districts. All local tax funds should be under the control of a publicly elected local board.
- Support legislation that would reinstate municipal courts the ability to enforce and assess fines for violations of minor traffic offenses including the suspension of licenses for offenders who fail to pay court fines and/or appear in court and to place the limit of the fine amount to \$500.00.
- Support current legislation that grants the Local Education Agency (LEA) the ability to determine the best educational placement of a student including the impacts of virtual school participation.
- Support funding for improvements to Missouri Highway 7 in Independence.
- Expand the MOABLE Program through supporting the ABLE Age Adjustment Act.
- Renew the Hospital Reimbursement Allowance.

MONITOR & SUPPORT

- Support the development and adoption of a prescription drug monitoring program by the State of Missouri based upon the St. Louis County model.
- Continue positive dialogue between the municipal utility company and the community to achieve the best possible electric utility rates and services for commercial ratepayers.
- Support a long-term Congressional solution to the National Flood Insurance program that is equitable and sustainable.
- Support the development of a plan for increased transportation infrastructure including funding for highways, bridges, roads, transit, commuter rail and pedestrian trail options in Eastern Jackson County, to include monitoring of entities and budget bills for funding.
- Support the efforts of the City and other actors in keeping the Steamboat Arabia museum in Missouri.
- Support the Current laws that allow Community Broadband.
- Support an increase in MTC Funding.

ONGOING SUPPORT

- Support reasonable tax credit programs for historic preservation, affordable housing, job creation, workforce development, youth services and education as necessary incentives for the community.
- Support balanced economic development in partnership with the City and local taxing entities to ensure Independence can remain competitive in attracting jobs and capital investment.

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS? Contact Sarah Beth Wood at sarahbeth@ichamber.biz or call (816) 252-4745

Ribbon Cuttings



October 17, 2019

Bella Casa Flooring & Design
17001 E US 24 Hwy
Independence, MO 64056



October 22, 2019

Ecologix
3675 S Noland Rd, Suite 225
Independence, MO 64055



November 15, 2019

Dentists of Independence
15904 E 23rd Street, Suite B-1
Independence, MO 64055



November 19, 2019

ELOAH Creative
2425 S Crysler, Suite 7
Independence, MO 64052



November 21, 2019

Black Bear Diner
4053 S Little Blue Pkwy
Independence, MO 64050



December 3, 2019

KC Baby Back Ribs
305 N MO 291
Independence, MO 64056



December 11, 2019

Summit Salon Academy KC
815 W 23rd Street S
Independence, MO 64050



December 17, 2019

Crisp Cuts & Styles Barbershop
4201 S Noland Rd, Unit F
Independence, MO 64055



Tell your story!



2020 Membership Directory & Resource Guide

NOW IS THE TIME to reserve a space in the directory to advertise and promote your business to fellow members, consumers and businesses who are seeking to relocate. This year the Chamber is celebrating 100 years! This publication offers many opportunities to build your network, your business and engage with fellow members. The four-color, magazine-style guide features our communities and members. More than a plain listing of member names and addresses. The publication is mailed to all Chamber members as well as distributed to government offices,

libraries, REALTORS, hospitals, visitor centers, major area employees, schools and other businesses and residents. Reach more than 18,000 readers! Copies are also sent to those requesting information about this region. Sections within the directory will focus on tourism, commerce, education, history, recreation, demographics, transportation and the health of the region.

In addition to the print version, we have developed an enhanced digital edition that is emailed **QUARTERLY** to all members. This edition presents all the stories and content in a format just as easy as reading the actual publication. No zooming or pinching ... **WITH LINKS** to your company! That means your advertisement in our publication will be seen up to 5 times (once in print and four times in digital). More exposure to an even wider audience!

Thank you for your continued support of the Independence Chamber as we celebrate **YOU** and your partnership and continue to promote our area as a great place to live, work, shop and enjoy. Ad rates are attached to this email; with **AWESOME** discounts for members only. Contact Chamber member Tammie Easson at 417-629-7935 or teasson@metromediapublishers.com to secure the best placement in this annual directory.

Caught on Camera...





ALUMNI ASSOCIATION LEAD INDEPENDENCE



THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES WHO HAVE JOINED OUR 110% CLUB



- 1st MidAmerica Credit Union
- American Funding Solutions
- Beth Franklin Real Estate Team
- Downey Construction
- Evans & Steele
- Hartsook
- Hollis & Miller
- Independence EDC
- Rotary Club of Independence
- Speaks Chapels, LLC
- Independence Ennovation Center
- JE Dunn

- Kapke & Willerth
- Leone-Knipp Insurance Group
- RDS Equipment
- Rotary Club of Eastern Indep.

We invite you to join our 110% Club. When members voluntarily contribute an extra 10% over their annual investment amount, your contribution is tax deductible and will help the Chamber in strengthening our infrastructure.

As a member of the 110% Club, participating businesses will receive recognition on the Chamber's website, social media pages, in the Chamber's newsletter, and at Chamber events throughout the year. QUESTIONS? Contact Kris Zerr - kris@ichamber.biz or (816) 787-0313.

MEWA Healthcare Coverage Options for Small Business

Exclusively for Chamber Members



Many small businesses in our community continue to search for affordable health coverage options. That's why the Independence Chamber of Commerce is proud to partner with the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry to create a new health program that offers potential savings to businesses with 50 or fewer eligible employees. This new program is called the Missouri Chamber Federation Benefit Plan. It uses an innovative structure that enables smaller employers to join together to share in the overall claims risk. This creates a larger self-funded pool providing greater stability and financial protection backed by Anthem's stop loss coverage. This is called a multiple employer welfare arrangement, or MEWA.

We encourage our members who have 50 or fewer eligible employees to look into this new health coverage option. It is possible that many employers in our business community could find a cost savings by participating in the Missouri Chamber Federation Benefit Plan.

Questions? Contact the Chamber 816.252.4745

March Luncheon

Guest Speaker



Toby Cook

*KC Royals
Vice President of Publicity*

Make plans to join us for the March Membership Luncheon where we will hear remarks from Toby Cook, Vice President of Publicity for the Kansas City Royals!

When:

Wednesday
March 18, 2020
11:30 AM-1:00 PM

Where:

Adam's Mark Hotel
9103 E 39th Street
Kansas City, MO 64133

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Happy Anniversary!

Celebrating the membership anniversaries of longstanding Chamber supporters.

1-4 Years

Johnmeyer Construction L.L.P.
Savior Auto
Alfano Law Firm LLC
Game Cafe LLC
3 Trails Brewing Co.
TCC
Lowe's Home Improvement Warehouse
Barefoot Lawn Care
Zarda Bar-B-Q and Catering Co.
Jackson County Historical Society
Heritage Companies
RJ's CoffeeLand
Crane Agency
ELOAH Creativity Center
Good Shepherd Hospice
Croley Insurance and Financial
ProSource Wholesale
Washington Roofing & Insulation Inc.
H&R Block 40 Hwy
Steve Hancock Agency
Any Lab Test Now
APEX ALEWORKS
H&R Block-Independence Square
Jim Barnes
Slim Chickens- Liberty
Sunterra Springs Independence
TSM Event Services LLC

Church of the Four Corners
PeacePathways
Candlewood Suites
National Association of Parliamentarians
RDS Equipment, Inc.
The Delaware Event Space
ACS Services
Rottler Pest Solutions
Flying Colors Painting
Sarpinos Pizzeria
Paramount Health Chiropractic
Collins Roofing
Rachel House Pregnancy Centers Inc.
Brent Lilly Agency
Bingham-Waggoner Estate
National Frontier Trails Museum
Chicago and Alton 1879 Depot
Adventure Oasis Water Park
Hartsook
LDS Independence Missouri Visitors' Center
Nancy K Eppert
McAlister's Deli
GM Peters Agency, Inc.
Duluth Trading Company
Sonshine Sports Apparel, LLC
The Trevor Tilton Farmers Agency
Englewood Properties, LLC

5-14 Years

Matchstick Websites
Zucca & Daughters & Sons Roofing Co., Inc
Truckmovers.com
Carhartt Independence Center
ReeceNichols East
Hometown News
Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City
All Copy Products
TIREY J FORD POST 21
Morgan Miller Plumbing
Victorian Society of the Vaile Mansion and Dewitt Museum
Continental Siding Supply
Big Frog Custom T-Shirts & More
Crossroads Hospice and Palliative Care
Sibley Orchards
Revive Church
Buffalo Wild Wings
The Springs at Independence
GOAD COMPANY
One Community Hospice
Palmer Place Leasing Office
Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center

McClain Brothers Real Estate
Villages of Jackson Creek
Villages of Jackson Creek Memory Care
University of Central Missouri
Foster Adopt Connect
Wyatt Violin Shop LLC
Boys & Girls Club of Greater Kansas City
Village Heights Community of Christ
Kansas City Zoo
Blue Springs Ford
Family Wrench LLC
Bayer Crop Science
Drury Inn & Suites Independence
Sterling Plaza Apartments
WIC Independence (Women, Infants and Children Nutrition)
Jackson County Health Department
Medical Imaging Eastland
Vance & Associates, Inc.
Office Products Alliance
Sonic Drive In - Jackson Drive
Cruise Planners
Edward Jones, Jon Klassen

For more info about these businesses & all Chamber members visit www.iChamber.biz

15-24 Years

Jim Blau Insurance Agency Inc.
Hy-Vee Food & Drug Store 40 Hwy
DeLuccie and O'Hara Law Offices LLC
Summit Computer Solutions
Redwood of Carmel Hills
Swope Health Independence
Northrop Grumman
Northrop Grumman: Lake City Business Center
Developing Potential, Inc.
Nativity of Mary School
NorthWest Communities Development Corporation
Residence Inn by Marriott
Consultants in Gastroenterology/Division of Digestive Health Specialists
City of Sugar Creek
Specialty Landscape Services LLC
Stewardship Capital, Ltd.
Blue Springs School District
CBIZ Benefits & Insurance Services of K.C.

25-39 Years

Truman Heartland Community Foundation
Drumm Farm Center for Children
Kapke & Willerth LLC
United Consumers Credit Union
Hawthorn Bank- 39th St
Hawthorn Bank- White Oak
K Martin Kuny Attorney
Super 8 Independence
Tim's Pizza
Truman Medical Centers Lakewood
Spire Inc.
Unilever
Independence Center
Republic Services of Kansas City

40-49 Years

AT&T
State Farm Insurance, Phil Burress
Jeannie Colvin CPA PC
Comprehensive Mental Health Services
Independence School District
Commerce Bank- Noland Rd
Stewart Cook Constance & Minton LLC
UMB Bank- Gudgell
Independence Family and Cosmetic Dentistry
Pharaoh Cinema 4 Theater
Centerpoint Medical Center
Speaks Chapels LLC

50 Years

Carpenter and Company, Inc.

Officers:

Sonci Bleckinger
Chair of the Board
Central Bank of the Midwest

Julie Moreno
Treasurer
The Examiner

Beth Franklin
Chair Elect
Keller Williams Real Estate

Terri Steele
Past Chair of the Board
Evans & Steele Financial, LLC

Ex Officio Members:

Kurt Graham
Harry S Truman Library

Dr. Dale Herl
Independence School District

Dr. Paul Kinder
Blue Springs School District

Dr. Thomas Meyer
MCC - Blue River

Tom Lesnak
Independence EDC

Dr. Jason Snodgrass
Fort Osage School District

Zach Walker
City of Independence

Board of Directors:

Jim Allin
Fish Window Cleaning

Austin Conley
Austin Conley Agency

Kim Deveney
American Funding Solutions, LLC

Ron Finke
Stewardship Capital

Bob Glaser
Community America Credit Union

Steve Graffeo
Community of Christ

Yvonne Hall
Blue Ridge Bank & Trust

Mary House
Cruise Planners

Cindy McClain
McClain Enterprises, Inc.

Matt Medley
Medley Smiles

Laurie Dean Wiley
Justin Larkin Team at Waddell & Reed

Eric Knipp
Eric Knipp Agency, Inc.

Bret Kolman
Centerpoint Medical Center

Brad Smith
Drumm Farm Center for Children

Brad Speaks
Speaks Family Legacy Chapels

Trevor Tilton
The Trevor Tilton Farmers Agency

Whitney Watson
Northrop Grumman

Dr. Lynette Wheeler
Truman Medical Center Lakewood

Chamber Team:

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President & CEO
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Trina Anderson
Director of Membership Services
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Business to Education Connector
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Sarah Beth Wood
Program & Operations Manager
sarahbeth@ichamber.biz

Kris Zerr
Vice President & Director of Finance
kris@ichamber.biz



OUR BUSINESS IS BUSINESS

Independence Chamber of Commerce

Phone: (816) 252-4745

www.ichamber.biz



Meet Lynne Baker the NEW Business to Education Connector

After a career in education, most of which has been in the Independence School District, I find myself working at the Independence Chamber of Commerce! The position that I am currently filling is "Business to Education Connector". This position involves meeting businesses and connecting them with the Independence School District Academies. This job, which is supported by both the Independence Chamber of Commerce and ISD, allows me to meet Business owners and workers to discover the ways the ISD Academies can benefit the businesses and the students.

To say, I love school...is really an understatement! My journey in public education began after I graduated from Christian College for Women and the University of MO. I began teaching at Glasgow, MO, a rural school district, which was a perfect place to begin my career. I came to Independence and taught at Palmer Junior High with the subject being Eighth Grade Social Studies. I then transitioned to Truman High School as a Counselor. What a joy my twenty-two years at THS was! I then spent some time returning to school, University of Kansas, where I earned my MSW and then worked at Washington High School in KCK. When Van Horn came into the Independence School District, I returned to Van Horn and served as a Counselor, experiencing the immense pleasure of seeing Van Horn bloom and grow!

Although I am not from Independence, my love for this city has grown over the many years, I have lived here. I so appreciate the historic setting and benefits Independence offers, as well as the wonderful people of this city! I have known up to three generations of families and have seen the progress ISD and the city has made. I am married and live in Independence. My three children graduated from THS. I have many interests including: serving as a Counselor for mental health issues, belonging to JSL, serving on the Board of Trustees for Columbia College and earning my first-degree Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do.

I am blessed, beyond my imagination, in being invited to do this fabulous job, in a place I love, for two organizations I highly respect. If you are involved in a business and would like to explore the opportunities in which you would invest in a high school student...or if you have a student and have questions about the ISD Academies, please email or call me. ISD Academies is a high school program that is so progressive, that other school districts around the area are attempting to emulate the educational process that has been created.



Leadership

Quote of the Quarter

“Don’t find the fault,
find the remedy”

~ Henry Ford ~



New Chamber Members October - December 2019

Planet Fitness- 291 Hwy
United Way of Greater Kansas City
Crown Services, Inc
Barbour Concrete Co.
Konica Minolta Business Solutions
Little Richards Family Restaurant Inc
Worlds of Fun
Evansfield Distillery
Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation
KC Baby Back Ribs
E. Edwards Workwear
Frisk Brothers Moving
Bridge Space



Save the Date

February 27, 2020
4:30 PM - 6:00 PM



Together We Play