

The Chamber

View



Quarterly Newsletter



Reopened for business

July/Aug/Sept 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.



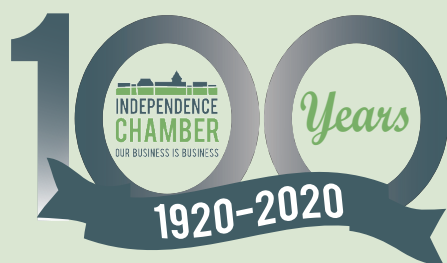
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JULY LUNCHEON



Plan to attend the July Membership Luncheon with us at the KC Zoo! Family members are welcome to attend at the same rate as Chamber members - \$25/person. While protective face masks are not required when eating your meal, in compliance with the requirements set by the City of Kansas City and Jackson County, masks will be mandatory at this event.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR THIS EVENT

Featured Speaker



Randy Wisthoff

Executive Director & CEO

When:

Wednesday
July 22, 2020
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Where:

Kansas City Zoo
6800 Zoo Drive
Kansas City, MO 64132



A message from the Chair

Dear Fellow Chamber Members,

Over the past few months, I hope you have relied on your Chamber to guide you through the uncertainty that we all faced. Tom and the Staff provided daily (sometimes hourly) updates to the resources available. From the early days of defining essential vs non-essential businesses and navigating through the government funding available, to now defining the varying phases of reopening, the Independence Chamber of Commerce is looked at as a Leader in the Region in providing business resources. Please check out this link, <https://ichamber.biz/resources/covid2020/> for details such as Restaurants with curbside pickup, Zoom, and other Online Meeting costs, Financial Support options, and more.

Like many of you, the Chamber is slowly reopening. Our Foodie Fridays continued throughout stay-at-home and now we have the opportunity to see one another in person with safety measures. Our LEAD class resumed their program in June and the Young Professionals and Ambassadors have also recently met in person. We hosted a Business After Hours in June at APEX Aleworks and are hopeful to return to our monthly luncheons, as it is deemed safe to do.

Unfortunately, the SantaCaliGon® Days Festival 2020 is cancelled. The committee, staff, and community are all disappointed, but with an annual attendance of 300,000, social distancing was going to be a challenge we could not overcome. On a positive note, we are planning ways to support our local non-profits and the craft vendors uniquely. Stay tuned for details.

Compassion, transformation, strong ...these words come to mind as I think of our community over the past 90 days. Compassion as we volunteered and donated to the social service agencies keeping our neighbors fed. Transformation as businesses implemented changes to the way they've operated for years. Strong because Independence as a whole WILL be stronger on the other side of this.

I hope to see you soon!

Sonci Bleckinger

Your 2020 Chamber Board Chair

Calendar of Events

JULY 7

IN BIZ RESOURCE COMMITTEE MEETING
8:30 AM - 9:30 AM
Online Via Zoom

JULY 8

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
8:00 AM
Chamber of Commerce &
Online via Zoom

JULY 9

MEDICAID EXPANSION INFORMATIONAL
CONFERENCE CALL
10:00 AM
Online via Zoom-Registration required

JULY 14

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

JULY 14

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION WEBINAR
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Online - Registration required

JULY 16

DISASTER PLANNING FOR SMALL
BUSINESS
12:30 PM - 2:00 PM
Online - Registration required

JULY 16

QUALITY HOUSING & SAFE
NEIGHBORHOODS COMMITTEE MEETING
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Chamber of Commerce
210 W. Truman Road

JULY 21

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION WEBINAR
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Online - Registration required

JULY 22

MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Kansas City Zoo
6800 Zoo Drive

Plan to attend the July Membership
Luncheon with us at the KC Zoo!



SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE

JULY 23

MAINTAINING CONTINUITY & EFFECTIVE
MANAGEMENT OF SMALL BUSINESSES
IN REMOTE ENVIRONMENTS
12:30 PM - 2:00 PM
Online - Registration required

JULY 28

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION WEBINAR
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Online - Registration required

JULY 29

MEMBERSHIP 101
8:00 AM
Chamber of Commerce
210 W. Truman Road

JULY 30

ONLINE ESSENTIALS FOR SMALL
BUSINESS
12:30 PM - 2:00 PM
Online - Registration required

AUGUST 4

IN BIZ RESOURCE COMMITTEE MEETING
8:30 AM - 9:30 AM
Online Via Zoom

AUGUST 4

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION WEBINAR
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Online - Registration required

AUGUST 5

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

AUGUST 6

PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
9:00 AM
Chamber of Commerce
210 W. Truman Road

AUGUST 6

AGILE MARKETING, SALES &
E-COMMERCE FOR SMALL BUSINESSES
12:30 PM - 2:00 PM
Online - Registration required

AUGUST 11

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

AUGUST 12

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
8:00 AM
Chamber of Commerce &
Online via Zoom

AUGUST 13

SCG FESTIVAL PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
8:30 AM-9:30 AM
Chamber of Commerce
210 W. Truman Road

AUGUST 13

SUPPLY CHAIN CHALLENGES FOR SMALL BUSINESSES
12:30 PM - 2:00 PM
Online - Registration required

AUGUST 19

MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
TBD

Be sure to join us for the August Membership Luncheon.

SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE

AUGUST 19

COMMUNITY BROADBAND COMMITTEE MEETING
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Chamber of Commerce & Online via Zoom

AUGUST 20

ESSENTIALS OF CYBERSECURITY FOR SMALL BUSINESSES
12:30 PM - 2:00 PM
Online - Registration required

AUGUST 20

QUALITY HOUSING & SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS COMMITTEE MEETING
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Chamber of Commerce
210 W. Truman Road

We're looking forward to seeing you at these upcoming Chamber networking events. To register for these events or for more information visit:
www.iChamber.biz

*PLEASE NOTE: Event dates and details are subject to change.
Please check the Chamber calendar for the most current event details.*

AUGUST 21

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

AUGUST 28

40TH ANNUAL CHAMBER GOLF CLASSIC
7:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Winterstone Golf Course
17101 E Kentucky Road



Grab your clubs in support of the 40th Annual Chamber Golf Classic! Every program the Independence Chamber of Commerce hosts is meant to be a business opportunity and this golf tournament is without exception. Participants will enjoy breakfast, lunch, contests, 50/50 Raffle, prizes and more!

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

Contact Trina to sponsor or to sign up your team - trina@ichamber.biz or call (816) 356-6121

SEPTEMBER 1

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

SEPTEMBER 3

PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
9:00 AM
Chamber of Commerce
210 W. Truman Road

SEPTEMBER 8

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

SEPTEMBER 9

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

SEPTEMBER 10

SCG FESTIVAL PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
8:30 AM-9:30 AM
Chamber of Commerce
210 W. Truman Road

SEPTEMBER 16

MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
TBD

Be sure to join us for the September Membership Luncheon.

SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE

SEPTEMBER 16

COMMUNITY BROADBAND COMMITTEE MEETING
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Chamber of Commerce & Online via Zoom

SEPTEMBER 24

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



SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE!

**PRIZES
RAFFLES
& fun!**

FRIDAY | AUGUST 28, 2020

WINTERSTONE GOLF COURSE
7:00 AM REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST
8:00 AM SHOTGUN START



**SIGN UP BY
AUGUST 7TH
FOR THE BEST
PRICING!**

**SPONSORSHIPS
ARE AVAILABLE!**

EARLY BIRD TEAM PRICING UNTIL AUGUST 7TH!

**CHAMBER MEMBERS: \$500/TEAM EARLY BIRD PRICING
\$550/TEAM AFTER AUGUST 7TH - OR \$150/INDIVIDUAL**

**NON-MEMBER: \$600/TEAM EARLY BIRD PRICING
\$650/TEAM AFTER AUGUST 7TH - OR \$175/INDIVIDUAL**

TO SIGN UP OR FOR MORE INFO CONTACT TRINA ANDERSON - TRINA@ICHAMBER.BIZ

Thank you!

Special thanks to the following businesses who have given 110%:

- 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.



*The 2020-2021 L.E.A.D.
class is forming!*

Developed by the Independence Chamber of Commerce, L.E.A.D. Independence aims to provide a network of informed leaders with a commitment to the continued growth and development of our City. L.E.A.D. Independence provides a road map for successful community involvement through interaction with key community leaders and the issues that make Independence distinctive.

REGISTER TODAY!

The 2020-2021 LEAD class will meet 9 times on the third Thursday of each month from September to May. The class that make up LEAD 2020 will choose what they study and what businesses and sites they will visit.

ONLINE REGISTRATION AVAILABLE:

Visit www.ichamber.biz and get more information or apply online. Or, if you prefer the personal touch, please contact Trina Anderson at (816) 252-4745 or email her at Trina@ichamber.biz.

More than 600 community leaders have graduated from LEAD Independence program.

**Visit the website to register or for more information:
www.ichamber.biz/pages/lead-independence**

Happy Anniversary!

Celebrating the membership anniversaries of longstanding Chamber supporters.

1-4 Years - April-September 2020

Summit Salon Academy KC
Rothwell Construction
JDog Junk Removal & Hauling
Metro Motors KC
Dentists of Independence
Dutzel's Catering
Deals Thrift Mart
Mark One Electric Co., Inc.
LaQuinta Inn and Suites
Kansas City Structural Steel Inc
Bolero Salon and Spa
EPIC KC
Jimmy John's Gourmet Sandwiches
KMC Dermatology
HopeKids Kansas City
ADP
Pinnacle Bank
RE/MAX Elite Realtors- Linda Pringle
Marshall Arts Productions
Crisp Cuts & Styles Barbershop
Watchdog Advisory
Square One Homes LLC
Robert Sauls, State Representative
CubeSmart
Miller Theatres
Edward Jones, Matt Flax
Treo Marketing
Mary Kay
Restoration House of Greater Kansas City
Blue Ridge Bank- Independence Square
Blue Ridge Bank- Raytown
Blue Ridge Bank- Sterling
IAMXCLUSYVE LTD
Kansas City Property Solutions LLC

Secret Service House
The Pavilion Event Space
Gerken Rent-All Inc.
Landmark National Bank
Vivilore
West inD Connection 501(c)3
Ecologix
Pure Water Oasis
Ghafoor Cook Ellis, LLC
Cedarhurst of Blue Springs
BlendWell Community Cafe
SCOOB'S TINT & DENTS
Ennovation Center
American Shaman Independence
Farmers Insurance The Bryan Hunter Agency
Lion's Choice
AT&T Store
Bryan Conley
State Farm Alicia Allen
Commercial Concepts & Furnishings
Messiah Lutheran School
Independence Army Recruiting Station
Get Air Independence
Lesley Siegfried Agency
Under the Awning Boutique
AVI Systems
Hunter Properties
First National Business Corporation (FN-BC-Kansas City)
Sarah Cannon Cancer Center
Avitus Group
Partners in Primary Care
McCownGordon Construction

Carter Broadcast Group, Inc.
FISH Window Cleaning
Rainbow Center for Communicative Disorders
Osborne Global Investors, Inc
Karatbars Affiliate
Directed Wellness Center
St. Mary's Medical Center
Los Cabos Mexican Grill & Cantina
JG Contracting, LLC
University Health on the Go!- 23rd St
Fullerton CPAs
Cunningham Auto and Collision CARSTAR
University Health on the Go!-Noland Rd
Comfort Suites Independence
Holiday Inn Express & Suites
Kansas City Area Transportation Authority
Laurie Dean Wiley, Financial Advisor, Associate of
Justin Larkin at Waddell and Reed
Centerpoint Orthopedics
Centerpoint Physicians Group
Family Care of Eastern Jackson County
Family Care of Independence
Jackson County Pulmonary Medical Group LLC
Midwest Neurology Physicians
Midwest Sports Medicine Physicians/Midwest
Occupational Health and Wellness
Neurosurgery Associates of Jackson County
Hawthorn Bed and Breakfast
John Kimak
Nancy C. Kimak
Bank Midwest
Minsky's Pizza
Summit Grill and Bar

5-14 Years - April-September

Edward Jones, Drew Hammer
The Travel Store
Sylvan Learning Center Lee's Summit
Missouri
Dental Excellence
Driskill Business Development Group, Inc./Sandler Training
Paychex
JobOne
Evans and Steele Financial Services
Bass Pro Shops/Islamorada Fish Company
Hollis+Miller Architects
Kansas City Managed IT
GFI Digital
R & K Auto Body LLC
Liberty Tax Service
City of Independence Tourism
Alissa's Flowers, Fashion & Interiors

St. Luke's Health System
Arvest Bank
Beth Franklin Real Estate Team at Keller Williams
Rotary Club of Eastern Independence
Susan Appleberry Widick, DDS, PC
A Little Bar-B-Q-Joint
Heart of America Council BSA Blue Elk District
Jackson County
JE Dunn Construction Co
Planet Fitness- Noland Rd.
Truman Heritage Habitat for Humanity
Cosentino's Catering
Sound Check
Palomino's Mexican Restaurant
County Beverage Company Inc.
Cinda Chapman CPA
Pepperwood Apartments - Office
Cable Dahmer Arena

Independence Hydraulics Inc.
TNC Community
AutoTek LLC
Monterey Park Rehabilitation & Health Care Center
Sunrise Montessori Academy of Independence
Midwest Public Risk
Town & Country Building Services
Central Bank of the Midwest
Central Bank of the Midwest- 23rd St
Central Bank of the Midwest- Commercial Lending Center
Drumm Farm Golf Club
Staybridge Suites
Mid-Continent Public Library - Midwest Genealogy Center
Mid-Continent Public Library- North Independence Branch

5-14 Years Continued

Mid-Continent Public Library-Administrative Headquarters
Mid-Continent Public Library-South Independence Branch
Missouri Employers Mutual Insurance
Associated Services in Insurance Inc
Emerick & Company, CPAs
Full Employment Council Inc./Missouri Job Center
Paradise Park
East Side Baptist Church
GEHA Government Employees Health Association Inc.
Reece & Nichols Realtors, Daniel O'Neill
Belfonte's Mirror Image Car Wash
Eastland Trails Apartments
Adams Pointe Conference Center
Better Business Bureau

15-24 Years - April-September

CPros Inc
American Funding Solutions LLC
American Sweeping Inc
Burd & Fletcher Co.
Opdahl & Bowen DDS, PC
Pioneer Trails Adventures
Premiere Outdoor Enterprises, Inc.
Superior Bowen Asphalt Company LLC
CommunityAmerica Credit Union- Noland
Jackson County Audiology
Jackson County Electrical Services Inc
Fairmount Plaza Apartments
McGrath Heating and Cooling LLC
Winterstone Golf Course
Swope Health Services
Aldi Inc. - 16007 E 23rd Street
Carrabba's Italian Grill
Edward Jones, Corey Long
Kiwanis Club of Independence
McDonald's Restaurant - 18910 E US Highway 40
Lew Printing
Hilton Garden Inn Independence
The Big Biscuit
State Farm Insurance, Kim Downey Noble
Marquee Event Rentals
Hillcrest Transitional Housing of Eastern Jackson County
Kansas City Chiefs Football Club, Inc
Edward Jones, Craig Bolger
Kansas City Royals
Widick Marketing

25-39 Years - April-September

McDonald's Restaurant - 3921 Bolger Road
ServiceMark Telecom
Susquehanna Auto Clinic
Corporate CopyPrint
Custom Engineering Inc.
Landmark Dodge Chrysler Jeep
The Salvation Army
American Medical Response
AFS Insurance
Edward Jones, Doug Hammer
Metropolitan Community College - Blue River
Community Services League
Child Abuse Prevention Association (CAPA)
Hi-Boy Drive-In
Park University
McDonald's Restaurant - 16235 E. 24 Highway
McDonald Auto Body Inc.
Burns & McDonnell
Discover Vision Centers
Scandinavia Place
Community of Christ International Headquarters
Mugs Up Drive In
State Farm Insurance, Blake Roberson
Independence Economic Development Council

40-49 Years

Graceland University - Independence Campus
Independence Adult & Community Education
Humphrey, Farrington, & McClain, PC
McIntosh Heating & Cooling
Cardwell & Associates
Space Center Kansas City, Inc.
Cable-Dahmer Chevrolet Inc
HEMCO Corporation
Cable-Dahmer Buick GMC
Sladek Do it Best Hardware
Examiner, The

*Congratulations on
many successful years
in business!*

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



New Chamber Members

January - June 2020

**73-Productions, Event Planning Services
Albonée Country Inn and Vineyards LLC
Ambassador Corporate Renovations
AML Insurance Services
Anita's Home Team, REMAX Premier
Properties
Associated Audiologists
Baker Bros. Contractors, Inc.
BBBSKC
Big Bob's Outlets of Kansas City Inc
Big Boy Burgers
Black Bear Diner
Bridget McCandless
BRS Photography
Budget Blinds of Concordia/Blue Springs
Budget Blinds of Lee's Summit
Caduceus USA
Cashew Creamery
Ciao Bella Ice Creamery and Bakery, LLC
Classy Canines
Commcare/ Alternatives
Culinary Provisions
Deacon Lumber
Dennis W Tharp
Dynamic Chiropractic
Edward Jones Financial Advisor: Carson F.
Burke
Forza Property Management
Frannie Franks Coffee Cakes
From Scratch Catering
Fully Promoted
Good Freedom Cookies
Harbor Hospice
Hathhorn CPA LC**

**Jessica Myers, LLC.
Julie Moreno
Keto Cook KC
Lamb Transportation
Leo Accounting
LIME Life
Lois McDonald
Madden Media
Maggie's Carb Cutting Kitchen
Marr and Company, P.C.
Noland Road Community Improvement District
Novus Power Products LLC
NS Custom Cakes LLC
Old Town Barber College
Philip Snodgrass State Farm Agency
Phoenix Nail Lounge
Planet Fitness- 291 Hwy
Real Country 1030 AM KCWJ
Real Stuff
RPS Benefits by Design
Salvatore's Restaurant
Schooley Mitchell
Tagine House
Taylor Garner - American Republic
Insurance Services
Terrace Home Health
Thomas R. and Eileen N. Weir
Timeless Empire Salon
Wells Fargo Home Mortgage
WIL-PAV, INC
Wine Down 109
Workestrate LLC
Yummy Favorites Catering**

Please join us in welcoming them by visiting their website, social media page, sending them an email or stopping by to introduce yourself. The personal touch will help our Chamber continue to grow and thrive.

Officers:

Sonci Bleckinger
Chair of the Board
Central Bank of the Midwest

Kim Deveney
Treasurer
American Funding Solutions,
LLC

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

J.D. Kehrman
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

Alec Cook
Continental Siding

Doug Cowan
Community Services League

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

Eric Knipp
Eric Knipp Agency, Inc.

Bret Kolman
Centerpoint Medical Center

Cindy McClain
McClain Enterprises, Inc.

Matt Medley
Medley Smiles

Brad Smith
Drumm Farm Center for Children

Brad Speaks
Speaks Family Legacy Chapels

Trevor Tilton
The Trevor Tilton Farmers Agency

Dr. Lynette Wheeler
Truman Medical Center Lakewood

Laurie Dean Wiley
Financial Advisor, Associate of Justin Larkin
at Waddell and Reed

Chamber Team:

Tom Lesnak
President & CEO
tom@ichamber.biz

Trina Anderson
Director of Membership Services
trina@ichamber.biz

Lynne Baker
Business to Education Connector
lynne@ichamber.biz

Mikealene Evans
Director of Marketing & Communications
mikealene@ichamber.biz

Sarah Beth Ray
Program & Operations Manager
sarahbeth@ichamber.biz

Morgan Welch
Special Projects Manager
morgan@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

Member News

A well deserved honor...Congratulations Bob Glaser!

Fellow Board member Bob Glaser was recognized by Missouri Lt. Governor Mike Kehoe who presented him with the 2020 Senior Service Award.

Bob was nominated by Missouri Senator Mike Cierpiot who joined Lt Governor Kehoe in the award presentation.





Leadership

Quote of the Quarter

“Don’t let the noise of
others’ opinions drown
out your own inner
voice.”

~ Steve Jobs ~



Yes on 2

Healthcare

FOR MISSOURI

On the August 4th, 2020 ballot, Missouri has an opportunity to expand Medicaid that will help hard-working low-income Missourians have the health care they deserve. Billions of Missouri tax dollars will come back into our state and will save and create jobs statewide. It will also protect our hospitals from devastating budget cuts, which will result in loss of jobs and services for everyone. Expanding Medicaid will bring back these jobs and create thousands more.

**VOTE YES ON AMENDMENT 2
AUGUST 4TH, 2020**

Save the Date



FRIDAY | AUGUST 28, 2020

7:00 AM - Registration & Breakfast

8:00 AM - Shot-Gun Start

WINTERSTONE GOLF COURSE