

The Chamber

# View

Quarterly Newsletter



*Community Leaders Growing Independence*

2021 - OFF TO A GOOD START

Jan/Feb/Mar 2021

# Community Leader Members

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



**As**  
ASPHALTIC SURFACES

— LLC. —  
*Paving our way into the future*



AUTO | HOME | LIFE | BUSINESS | RETIREMENT







## A message from the Chair

**Welcome 2021!**

**I don't know of a time when we've been so happy for a year to end! I think we all are looking forward to new beginnings and better days ahead.**

**Of course, nothing changes immediately except the calendar. We will be dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic for months (or years) to come. The Chamber will continue to be a resource for the business community in Independence to use in navigating the current health directives and possible government assistance that may be available.**

**The Board of Directors consists of men and women who care about Independence and who work hard to support local businesses, large and small. It is my honor and privilege to serve as the Chair of the Board in 2021. Thank you Sonci Bleckinger, 2020 Board Chair, for leading us through a challenging year.**

**All businesses must change and adapt to current conditions and conditions can change quickly, whether caused by a global pandemic, government regulations, economic forces, or any number of other issues. Membership in the Chamber can be a way to stay informed on current business conditions and help you adapt as needed. The Chamber can also represent the business community and affect change when there is opportunity to do so. The Chamber is the voice of business in Independence.**

**You may have noticed; we added a lot of new members in December. Please look for them and support their business whenever possible. I am sure they will do the same for your business. Referrals between businesses is another great benefit of being a member of the Chamber.**

**Thank you for your membership and participation and continued support. I look forward to working with you this year.**

**Sincerely,  
Beth Franklin**

*Your 2021 Chamber Board Chair*

# Calendar of Events

## JANUARY 12

AMBASSADORS COMMITTEE MEETING  
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM  
Online via Zoom only

## JANUARY 13

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
8:00 AM  
Online via Zoom

## JANUARY 15

MONTHLY LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING  
8:30 AM - 9:30 AM  
Online via Zoom only

## JANUARY 20

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING & LUNCHEON  
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM  
Hilton Garden Inn  
19677 East Jackson Drive



The 2021 January Membership luncheon will be in conjunction with the Chamber's Annual Meeting, including remarks from the Past Chair Sonci Bleckinger, Chair Beth Franklin, and President and CEO Tom Lesnak. The award winners for the 2021 Annual Banquet will also be acknowledged for their leadership in 2020, along with the Chamber's newest Community Leaders. Register in advance for limited attendance!

PRESENTING SPONSOR

Matchstick  
WEBSITES

## JANUARY 21

QUALITY HOUSING & SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS COMMITTEE MEETING  
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM  
Chamber of Commerce &  
Online via Zoom only

## JANUARY 25

EASTERN JACKSON COUNTY BLOOD DRIVE  
10:00 AM - 6:00 PM  
Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Ctr.  
18011 Bass Pro Drive



The Community Blood Center is hosting a blood drive, jointly sponsored by the Independence Chamber of Commerce and Community Services League. All blood donations will be tested for antibodies for COVID-19. Book your appointment now at [savealifenow.org/group](https://savealifenow.org/group) and enter the code EG9F.

For additional details, contact Dawn Eblen at 816 352-2342 or [deblen@cbckc.org](mailto:deblen@cbckc.org). If you have medical eligibility questions, please call 1.800.688.0900.

SPONSORED BY:



## FEBRUARY 2

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

## FEBRUARY 3

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

## FEBRUARY 4

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

## FEBRUARY 9

AMBASSADORS COMMITTEE MEETING  
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM  
Chamber of Commerce &  
Online via Zoom

## FEBRUARY 10

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

## FEBRUARY 17

MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON  
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM  
Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center  
18011 Bass Pro Drive



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

PRESENTING SPONSOR



## FEBRUARY

QUALITY HOUSING & SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS COMMITTEE MEETING  
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM  
Chamber of Commerce &  
Online via Zoom

## FEBRUARY

MONTHLY LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING  
8:30 AM - 9:30 AM  
Chamber of Commerce &  
Online via Zoom

## MARCH 2

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

## MARCH 4

PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING  
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM  
Chamber of Commerce &  
Online via Zoom

## MARCH 9

AMBASSADORS COMMITTEE MEETING  
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM  
Chamber of Commerce &  
Online via Zoom

## MARCH 10

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

## MARCH 17

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

Be sure to join us for the March  
Membership Luncheon.

### SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE

Contact Morgan Welch if you're  
interested in sponsoring this event  
or for sponsorship details!  
Morgan@ichamber.biz or  
call (816) 875-4112

## MARCH 18

QUALITY HOUSING & SAFE  
NEIGHBORHOODS COMMITTEE MEETING  
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM  
Chamber of Commerce &  
Online via Zoom

## MARCH 19

MONTHLY LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING  
8:30 AM - 9:30 AM  
Chamber of Commerce &  
Online via Zoom



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

Please register for these events so that we may plan  
accordingly or for more information visit:

[www.iChamber.biz](http://www.iChamber.biz)

#### PLEASE NOTE:

*Event dates and details are subject to change.*

# LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING

The monthly legislative meetings update members on  
important legislative issues and give you the opportunity  
to ask legislators directly about issues you are concerned  
about. The briefing is open to all Chamber members and  
is free of charge.

#### UPCOMING DATES FOR BRIEFINGS:

- Friday, January 15th - 8:30 AM
- Friday, February 19th - 8:30 AM
- Friday, March 19th - 8:30 AM

The January meeting will be Zoom only and meetings  
after will be offered in a hybrid format with the in-person  
option in the Chamber Boardroom. Participants are re-  
quired to register in order to receive the Zoom link.



# Ribbon Cutting



November 5, 2020

**Frisk Brothers Moving**  
109 W Lexington  
Independence, MO 64050



November 20, 2020

**Joy Coffee**  
14300 E US Highway 40  
Independence, MO 64055



**December 17th - LEAD Government Day**  
*The team planning the day worked with the White House Decision center to put together a virtual platform of the program. The class enjoyed the virtual platform even though they couldn't be at the Truman Library to experience the hands-on history lab, but the participants were still able to step into the roles of President Truman and his advisors, work with formerly classified primary source documents, and collaborate to tackle some of history's greatest challenges in a different way.*

# JANUARY LUNCHEON



The 2021 January Membership luncheon will be in conjunction with the Chamber's Annual Meeting, including remarks from the Past Chair Sonci Bleckinger, Chair Beth Franklin, and President and CEO Tom Lesnak. The award winners for the 2021 Annual Banquet will also be acknowledged for their leadership in 2020, along with the Chamber's newest Community Leaders.

While protective face masks are not required when eating your meal, in compliance with the requirements set by the City of Independence and Jackson County, masks will be mandatory at this event.

**LIMITED ATTENDANCE**  
**PLEASE KINDLY REGISTER IN ADVANCE**

*When:*      *Where:*

**JANUARY**  
Wednesday  
**20**  
11:30 AM-1:00 PM

Hilton Garden Inn  
19677 East Jackson Dr.  
Independence, MO  
64057

**PRESENTING SPONSOR**

Matchstick  
WEBSITES

# FEBRUARY LUNCHEON



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

While protective face masks are not required when eating your meal, in compliance with the requirements set by the City of Independence and Jackson County, masks will be mandatory at this event.

**LIMITED ATTENDANCE**  
**PLEASE KINDLY REGISTER IN ADVANCE**

*When:*      *Where:*

**FEBRUARY**  
Wednesday  
**17**  
11:30 AM-1:00 PM

Stoney Creek Hotel  
18011 Bass Pro Dr.  
Independence, MO  
64055

**PRESENTING SPONSOR**

  
**INDEPENDENCE**  
★ POWER & LIGHT ★

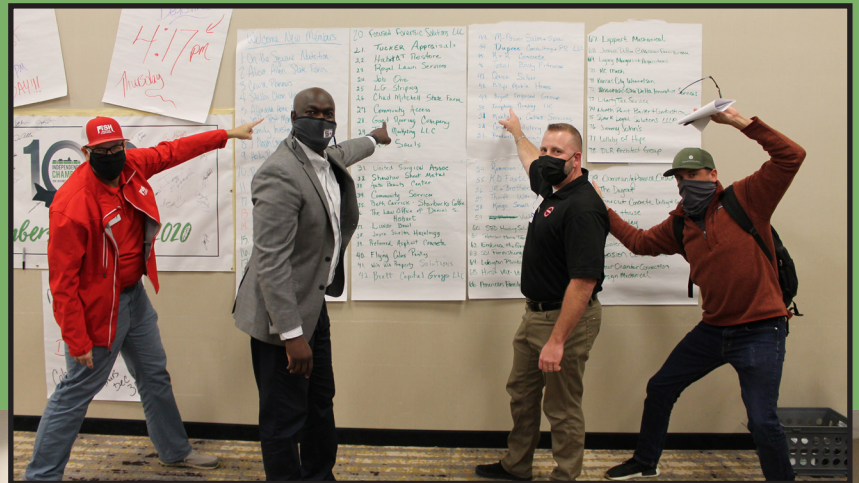




# Membership Event 2020

Keeping member programs in place while staying connected during these extraordinary times was a top priority of the Chamber. In December, we hosted our first membership campaign in 16 years! We recruited more than 60 member volunteers, to help with the efforts. The result -- we were able to add 111 new or upgraded memberships to the Chamber! This is a great addition to the businesses who already support the Chamber and community. The volunteers reached out to business partners in the community and encouraged them to join, fulfilling the Chamber's mission of building a business community of excellence. We are GRATEFUL for the support from the business community and volunteers. This has allowed us to continue with our efforts of serving local businesses and the community.

Thank you!





# WELCOME

## *New Chamber Members*

Enertech Energy Management Solutions  
 Res-Q Services  
 Salvus TG  
 Asphaltic Surfaces  
 All City Tow  
 Country Financial/ Stephen J. Pirch Insurance Agency, Inc  
 KR Roofing & Consulting  
 Metro Ford  
 YCS Group  
 Big Bob's Flooring Outlet of Liberty  
 Big Bob's Flooring Outlet of Overland Park  
 Central Bank of the Midwest- Noland Rd  
 Krete Construction  
 Delta Innovative Services/ DB2 Services  
 CCR Roofing  
 Quicksilver  
 Red Municipal and Industrial Equipment Co  
 POAH Preservation of Affordable Housing  
 Hownd, Inc.  
 Triad Inc.  
 City Credit Union  
 Auto Beauty Center  
 Community Access  
 DLR Architect Group  
 Fine Cut Concrete Drilling & Sawing LLC  
 Kansas City Winnelson  
 Lexington Plumbing & Heating Inc  
 LG Striping  
 Lippert Mechanical  
 Maintenance Contract Services  
 North Point Boiler & Combustion  
 Phillips Paving  
 Precision Construction Companies  
 Preferred Asphalt & Concrete  
 Regents Flooring  
 Rouse Frets White Goss Gentile Rhodes  
 Royal Lawn Service  
 Site Worx Construction Inc  
 SSI Furnishings  
 Total Body Fitness  
 Ignite Medical Resort  
 Square One Solutions  
 City Theatre of Independence  
 Eastland Face and Body  
 Local Investment Commission (LINC)  
 Affordable Home Foundation Inc.  
 I Noah Guy Home Improvements  
 LandRock  
 St. Mark's United Methodist  
 A Robinson Trucking LLC  
 AA Quick Disposal  
 Billy's Mobile Homies  
 Brett Capital Group LLC  
 Bryant Ferguson Group  
 Commercial Doors  
 Control Printing Group, Inc  
 Corso Upholstery LLC.  
 Design Mechanical

Edward Jones, Andrea McMillin  
 Elite Services & Repairs, LLC  
 Embrace the Grape Beverage Catering  
 Englewood Arts  
 Focused Forensic Solutions, LLC  
 Good Roofing Company  
 Habitat For Humanity ReStore  
 Hirst Vox- Voice Productions  
 Horn Law Firm  
 Inception Plumbing LLC  
 JMH Pest Management LLC  
 KC Floorworx  
 KC Mechanical  
 KCAV  
 King's Small Engine  
 Lunar Bowl  
 Martin Underground  
 Maywood Printing Company  
 Mobility First Inc.  
 Novel Place Senior Living  
 Omega Door  
 Pollard Orf and Associates  
 Pro Graphics & Signs  
 R&R Concrete Inc  
 SBD Housing Solutions  
 Scooter's Door Service  
 Scott Davidson Ins Agency INC  
 SERC Physical Therapy at Independence Square  
 Shawhan Sheet Metal  
 Spectrum Paint  
 Starbucks Coffee Co.  
 The Dugout Indoor Softball & Baseball Facility  
 The Insurance Groupe, Inc  
 The Law Office of Daniel S Hobart  
 Thrift World  
 Tucker Appraisals  
 Win Win Property Solutions  
 Xact Tax Services LLC  
 Your Chamber Connection  
 Family Investment Center  
 Holy Rosary Credit Union  
 Ochsner Hare + Hare the Olsson Studio  
 Monopoly Acquisitions, LLC  
 DuPree Consulting & PR, LLC  
 First Bank  
 Joshua DuPree at Missouri Farm Bureau  
 Kim McDaniels & Co  
 Lullaby of Hope  
 M-Power Salon & Spa  
 On The Square Nutrition  
 Peterson Home Team  
 Spark Legal Solutions, LLLP  
 Stella's Clean Vines  
 Olive Branch Accounting and Tax, LLC  
 Joyce Shelton Hazelrigg  
 Rhonda Dolan  
 Ross Wiley  
 Rory Rowland

# Happy Anniversary!

Celebrating the membership anniversaries of longstanding Chamber supporters.

## 1-4 Years - October-December 2020

Albonée Country Inn and Vineyards LLC  
Dynamic Chiropractic  
Frannie Franks Coffee Cakes  
Marr and Company, P.C.  
Old Town Barber College  
From Scratch Catering  
Baker Bros. Contractors, Inc.  
Cashew Creamery  
RPS Benefits by Design  
Good Freedom Cookies  
Novus Power Products LLC  
Leo Accounting  
BRS Photography  
Noland Road Community Improvement District  
Lamb Transportation  
Caduceus USA  
Bridget McCandless  
Big Boy Burgers  
Wine Down 109  
Timeless Empire Salon  
Lois McDonald  
Keto Cook KC  
AML Insurance Services  
Phoenix Nail Lounge  
Philip Snodgrass State Farm Agency  
Budget Blinds of Concordia/Blue Springs  
Black Bear Diner  
Deacon Lumber  
Culinary Provisions  
Ciao Bella Ice Creamery and Bakery, LLC

Hathhorn CPA LC  
WIL-PAV, INC  
Associated Audiologists  
BBBSKC  
Big Bob's Flooring Outlet of Independence  
Workstrate LLC  
Schooley Mitchell  
Harbor Hospice  
Taylor Garner - American Republic Insurance Services  
Real Country 1030 AM KCWJ  
Maggie's Carb Cutting Kitchen  
Ambassador Corporate Renovations  
73-Productions, Event Planning Services  
Madden Media  
Anita's Home Team, REMAX Premier Properties  
Planet Fitness- 291 Hwy  
Savior Auto  
Game Cafe LLC  
3 Trails Brewing Co.  
Zarda Bar-B-Q and Catering Co.  
Jackson County Historical Society  
Heritage Companies  
RJ's CoffeeLand  
Jim Barnes  
Sunterra Springs Independence  
ELOAH Creativity Center  
Good Shepherd Hospice  
Apex Aleworks  
H&R Block-Independence Square

Church of the Four Corners  
PeacePathways  
Candlewood Suites  
National Association of Parliamentarians  
RDS Equipment, Inc.  
The Delaware Event Space  
ACS Services  
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 - December-October 2020

Matchstick Websites  
Zucca & Daughters & Sons Roofing Co., Inc  
Truckmovers.com  
Carhartt Independence Center  
Hometown News  
Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City  
All Copy Products  
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  
One Community Hospice  
Palmer Place Leasing Office  
Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center  
McClain Brothers Real Estate  
Villages of Jackson Creek

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  
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

## 15-24 Years - Oct.- Dec. 2020

Jim Blau Insurance Agency Inc.  
Hy-Vee Food & Drug Store 40 Hwy  
DeLuccie and O'Hara Law Offices LLC  
Summit Computer Solutions  
Swope Health Independence  
Developing Potential, Inc.  
Nativity of Mary School  
NorthWest Communities Development Corp.  
Residence Inn by Marriott  
Consultants in Gastroenterology/Division of Digestive Health Specialists  
City of Sugar Creek  
Specialty Landscape Services LLC  
Stewardship Capital, Ltd.

## 25-39 Years - Oct.- Dec. 2020

Blue Springs School District	Hawthorn Bank-White Oak
CBIZ Benefits & Insurance Services of K.C.	K Martin Kuny Attorney
Truman Heartland Community Foundation	Super 8 Independence
Drumm Farm Center for Children	Tim's Pizza
Kapke & Willerth LLC	Truman Medical Centers
United Consumers Credit Union	Lakewood
Hawthorn Bank-39th Street	Spire Inc.
	Unilever
	Independence Center

## 40-49 Years - Oct.- Dec. 2020

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

## 50 Years

Carpenter and Company, Inc.



## Officers:

**Beth Franklin**  
Chair of the Board  
Keller Williams Real Estate

**Kim Deveney**  
Treasurer  
American Funding Solutions, LLC

**Eric Knipp**  
Chair Elect  
i360 Insurance, LLC

**Sonci Bleckinger**  
Past Chair of the Board  
Central Bank of the Midwest

## 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

**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

**Terri Steele**  
Evans & Steele Financial, LLC

**Trevor Tilton**  
The Trevor Tilton Farmers Agency

**Laurie Dean Wiley**  
Laurie Dean Wiley, Financial Advisor - DBA  
Hoot Owl Financial at Waddell & 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

**Ward Franz**  
Legislative Affairs Director  
ward@ichamber.biz

**Morgan Welch**  
Special Projects Manager  
morgan@ichamber.biz

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



**Independence Chamber of Commerce**  
Phone: (816) 252-4745  
www.ichamber.biz

## Sharing Knowledge and Experience



**Lynne Baker**  
Business to Education Connector

As a part of my position with the Independence Chamber and the Independence School District, I have the opportunity to meet many of the great businesses in our wonderful city, as well as their Leaders! Recently, I stopped in the Summit Salon Academy and met with the director, Jason York and Admissions Director, Joyce Graham-Cornine. Summit Salon Academy purchased the Independence College of Cosmetology in June 2019. SSA offers education and training in Cosmetology and Esthetics, with the additional opportunity to gain training as an Instructor in those areas. They extended such a warm welcome to me and are purposeful in their desires to help the ISD Academies, in any way possible! So, a big "Thank You" to Summit Salon Academy for being so generous with your time and talents! We are incredibly grateful to you for sharing your knowledge and experience with the ISD students!



# Leadership

Quote of the Quarter

“Everything is possible. The impossible just takes longer.”

~ Dan Brown ~



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

# BLOOD DRIVE



**ANTIBODY TESTING NOW AVAILABLE**

Sponsored by the Independence Chamber & Community Services League

**Eastern Jackson County Community**

**Monday, January 25th**

**10:00 AM - 6:00 PM**

**Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center**

**18011 Bass Pro Drive**



**All donations at this blood drive will be tested for antibodies to COVID-19.**  
For more information, visit [savealifenow.org](https://www.savealifenow.org).



**1-877-468-6844**

[www.savealifenow.org](https://www.savealifenow.org)

Book your appointment today at [savealifenow.org/group](https://www.savealifenow.org/group), enter **Group Code: EG9F**.  
For additional details contact Dawn Eblen at (816) 352-2342 or [deblen@cbckc.org](mailto:deblen@cbckc.org).

**Medical eligibility questions? Call 1.800.688.0900**



*Movers & Shakers*