

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

July/Aug/Sept 2022



Regional & Community Leader Members

The Independence Chamber of Commerce is grateful for our Regional & Community Leader Members!

We appreciate their ongoing support allowing us to offer programs and events that help

our city and members grow and prosper.

CONTINENTAL









A GREAT AMERICAN STORY



















PRESENTED BY: Xfinity

Sept. 2nd-5th, 2022 🌟 Historic Independence Square

FREE CONCERTS ★ FREE ADMISSION ★ ARTS & CRAFTS CARNIVAL * FESTIVAL FOOD * MAIN STREET 1849



Friday, Sept. 2nd

LonestarSaturday, Sept. 3rd

Sunday, Sept. 4th

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT



Calendar of Events

JULY 11

PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING 4:00 PM-5:00 PM Chamber of Commerce & Online via Zoom

JULY 12

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

JULY 13

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

JULY 19

CANDIDATE FORUM 6:30 PM Chamber of Commerce & Live on the Chamber's Facebook page



JULY 20

MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM The City House 14300 E US 40 Hwy



Featured Speaker

Mayor Rory Rowland City of Independence

Please register and plan to attend the July Membership Luncheon where Mayor Rory Rowland will be our guest speaker. Mayor Rowland will give an update on his first '100 Days' in office as mayor of the City of Independence.

PRESENTING SPONSOR



JULY 21

RIBBON CUTTING 4:00 PM-6:00 PM Hiram Young School

JULY 28

EJC Chamber Night at the Monarchs 5:00 PM-10:00 PM Legends Field 1800 Village West Pkwy Kansas City, KS 66111



AUGUST 2

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

AUGUST 3

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM Chamber of Commerce

AUGUST 8

PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM Chamber of Commerce & Online via Zoom

AUGUST 9

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

AUGUST 10

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

AUGUST 17

MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON & STATE OF THE SCHOOLS
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Stoney Creek Hotel & Conf. Ctr.
18011 Bass Pro Drive







Plan to attend the Monthly Membership Luncheon, where we will hear from the local Superintendents on the current State of the Schools!

Dr. Dale Herl will provide updates on the Independence School District, Dr. Jason Snodgrass will provide updates on the Fort Osage School District, and Dr. Bob Jerome will provide updates on the Blue Springs School District.

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

If you are interested in sponsoring this event, please contact Andréa Zorich andrea@iChamber.biz or call (816) 607-4911

AUGUST 25

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



SEPTEMBER 1-5

SANTACALIGON DAYS FESTIVAL **Historic Independence Square**

FESTIVAL HOURS:

- **Carnival Opens on Thursday** 6:00 PM - 11:55 PM
- Friday Noon-11:00 PM
- Saturday 10:00 AM-11:00 PM Sunday 10:00 AM-11:00 PM
- Monday 10:00 AM 5:00 PM



SPONSORED BY:



We are honored to host (along with our sponsor Xfinity), the 50th celebration of the long-standing Independence tradition, the SantaCaliGon® Days Festival. We hope you will join us for a fun weekend that brings our community together to enjoy great music, arts & craft booths, delicious food, carnival rides, and fun activities for the entire family!



SEPTEMBER 12

PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM **Chamber of Commerce & Online via Zoom**

SEPTEMBER 13

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

SEPTEMBER 14

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM **Chamber of Commerce &** Online via Zoom

SEPTEMBER 15

L.E.A.D. BEGINS 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM **Chamber of Commerce**

SEPTEMBER 21

MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP BREAKFAST 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM **Location: TBD**

Plan to attend the September Membership Luncheon. More information about the program coming soon.

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

If you are interested in sponsoring this event, please contact Andréa Zorich andrea@iChamber.biz or call (816) 607-4911

SEPTEMBER 29

BUSINESS BEFORE HOURS 7:30 AM - 9:00 AM WHATABURGER 18902 E US 40 Hwy





Kenny Chesney - SCG 1997

PLEASE NOTE:

Event dates and details are subject to change without notice.

Please check the Chamber calendar for the most current event details.

Help us to plan accordingly, by registering for these events online:

www.iChamber.biz







May 3, 2022

Oak Street Health 16659 East 23rd St. S. Independence, MO 64055



May 6, 2022

Express Oil Change & Tire Engineers 18817 Valley View Pkwy. Independence MO 64055



May 12, 2022

MIVA Medical 4200 Little Blue Pkwy Ste 350 Independence, MO 64057



May 20, 2021

The Delaware: Events + Coffee 3424 NW Duncan

Blue Springs MO 64015

CANDIDATE FORUM



CITY COUNCIL AT-LARGE

Tuesday, July 19th, 2022

Beginning at 6:30 PM
Questions for candidates may be submitted by email to:
forum@ichamber.biz

Independence Chamber of Commerce 210 W. Truman Road



NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE L.E.A.D. 2022-2023 CLASS

REGISTER TODAY! The 2022-2023 L.E.A.D. class will meet 9 times on the third Thursday of each month from September to May. The L.E.A.D. 2022 class will choose what they study and what businesses and sites they will visit.

CLASS STARTING SOON! DON'T DELAY IN REGISTERING!



CALL FOR MORE INFO 816.252.4745

SCAN QR CODE FOR 15 MORE INFO
OR TO APPLY





SantaCalisson Days Festival 2022 Presented by: Xfinity

SantaCaliGon® Days Festival Celebrates Golden Anniversary

The SantaCaliGon® Days Festival, has a lot to celebrate! The festival hosted by the Independence Chamber of Commerce and sponsored by Xfinity will celebrate its 50th Anniversary in 2022.

The annual SantaCaliGon® Days Festival, held Labor Day Weekend, commemorates the origin of the Santa Fe, California. and Oregon trails in Independence during the country's great westward expansion by early pioneers. The first SantaCaliGon Days Festival was held in 1940 to celebrate the unique heritage of the City of Independence as the starting point of the three trails. A second celebration was held after World War II in 1947. The festival was not held again until 1973.

The festival, then called Three Trails Days, featured a beard and mustache contest, the Miss Independence pageant, and a pioneer costume contest. In 1974 the festival was renamed Santa-Cali-Gon Days, a name originally penned by Velma Katschkowsky in a 1940 contest to name the festival. In 50 years, the festival has evolved into one of the regions premier festivals, drawing more than 300,000 people to celebrate the end-of-summer and contributes millions of dollars in economic impact over Labor Day weekend in Independence. The region's oldest and largest FREE festival features entertainment, delicious food, handcrafted arts and crafts, a world-class carnival and two stages throughout the fun-filled weekend.

The festival's Main Stage has featured many national country music acts such as artists Clint Black, Kenny Chesney the Dixie Chicks, Dierks Bentley, Brett Eldridge as well as legendary artist Kenny Wayne Shepherd and Wynonna (Judd) and the Big Noise, who did not disappoint. Most recently, Country music's award-winning band, Sawyer Brown. The golden anniversary celebration promises to bring the same quality entertainment as in years past.

The popular Community Stage features local and regional talent throughout the daytime and local bands in the evening, where you can kick back and enjoy live music under the night sky.

All of the concerts are FREE; however, VIP wrist bands will be available for limited premium front of the stage seating and will be sold online in advance for \$30/person and can be used the entire weekend at the Main Stage. Wrist bands will be available for purchase through the www.SantaCaliGon. com website.

The festival provides an excellent value for sponsors as the venue attracts large audiences and the comprehensive marketing strategy is highly effective. Logo recognition in signage, programs, maps, as well as on billboards, television, radio, and social media are included in that plan. The return on sponsorship investment is phenomenal.

Kids of all ages can experience the past, at Main Street 1849 (presented by the City of Independence) located on Main Street between Lexington & Kansas streets; guests can enjoy live entertainment, games and activities, live demonstrations and celebrate our pioneering past by interacting with true-to-life pioneer actors.

For more information about the festival visit SantaCaliGon.com, like us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter and Instagram.



Terri & Greg Steele - SCG 2005



Karen Downey w/Marty Stuart - SCG 2004



Locash Cowboys - SCG 2005



Red Cox (Wade Shows) with Emily Crawford - SCG 2004





Vendor booths occupy nine square blocks in the historic downtown of Independence — the same location that blacksmiths and merchants outfitted wagon trains for their long and arduous trek west of the Missouri River in the 1800s. Today, festival goers enjoy demonstrations of blacksmithing, wood carving and other trades; a variety of handcrafted items, including jewelry, soaps, and wood crafts; as well as popular festival fare including everything from homemade root beer and kettle corn to steak sandwiches and Greek salad. Arts and crafts, as well as commercial vendors, are welcome to showcase their products and

services at SCG.

SantaCaliGon Vendor Spotlight



Lynne Baker
Business to
Education Connector

As we move closer to the 50th Anniversary of the SantaCaliGon Festival, I wanted to share some "behind the scenes" stories of the people who make the SantaCaliGon experience unique and special. I would like to introduce you to Rashida and Timothy Maghinay, who have brought a delicious tasting treat to Independence and the Festival. Timothy and Rashida met in Hawaii where she went to attend college. When Rashida and Timothy decided to move back to her hometown, they brought a special frozen treat with them. Taste of Aloha, True Hawaiian SHAVE Ice is a labor-intensive treat which is NOT a snow cone. In Hawaii, this delicious treat is known as SHAVE ice! In true and authentic Hawaiian style, the SHAVE ice by done by a special machine which "shaves the ice to give it that soft, melt-in-your-mouth consistency". The remainder of the process is completed by hand. In addition, Rashida and Timothy brought with them the true flavors of the fruits of Hawaii. Yummy, Yummy!

Rashida and Timothy are a darling, young couple with five children, who work hard to make their dream of bringing "Hawaiian SHAVE ice" to everyone across and beyond the local area. Their working season is relatively short, so they have to do all they can during April until October to make their 'business viable". When you pass their very colorful tent, please stop by and get a truly delicious true Hawaiian SHAVE ice. I promise, you will not regret this purchase. Oh, by the way, I had "Tiger's Blood", as my flavor choice... and it was delicious! The Maghinay's also have a program where they give back to the community and the schools. Stop by and visit this vibrant young couple and enjoy a delightful and authentic Taste of Aloha Hawaiian SHAVE Ice.



antaCaliGon Vendor Spotlight continued



Thompson Farm Soups and More has held a booth for over ten years at the SCG Festival. The story of James and Terry Dennis buying this brand is quite intriguing! The original Thompson Family started this business about thirty years prior to the Dennis's purchasing the company. Mr and Mrs. Thompson first canned and later produced dry soups and other products.

Mr. Dennis owned an electrical company and was called on to do a small job for the Thompsons. As time passed, James Dennis was called to the Thompson's home more often, to do electrical jobs and became friends with the family. He was often sent home with soup mixes after calling on the family to solve their electrical issues.

Mr. Thompson was in his seventies and had started to think about retiring at some point in time. James and Terry had been in the restaurant business previously, so they decided to purchase the entire business, including the original recipes in 2011. In 2020, the Dennis family built their own manufacturing, FDA approved site. With ten children, and now grandchildren involved, the manufacturing facility is operated five days a week, producing the delicious soups and dip mixes you will find in their booth, located in the Uptown Market.

The Dennis Family live and produce their product in Wentzville, MO. The family travels to between fifty and sixty festivals a year, journeying across the Midwest. They have traveled to states as far away as Wisconsin and Michigan, as well as closer to home in Iowa and Arkansas. Mr. Dennis was very complimentary to our SCG Festival. He declared us as a "#1 Great Festival"! He shared he always enjoyed working with us because we were willing to learn and grow. He mentioned that a booth layout change, as well as changing the loading/unloading process had been quite beneficial to the vendors. He also mentioned that the SCG Committee "seems to do a good job and wants to get better" every time. In addition, Mr. Dennis stated, "They Care". Mr. Dennis, what wonderful accolades you gifted to us! We take great joy in serving our vendors, particularly those who have been with us several years. Thank you for your loyalty and support to our SCG Festival to the Dennis Family and Thompson Farm Soups and More!





The many vendors participating in the SantaCaliGon Festival are all involved for a variety of reasons. For some, the financial aspect benefits their family finances, but for many vendor participants, the Non-Profits, their involvement in the SCG Festival funds the activities they want to offer their members for the coming year. The Nativity of Mary Boy Scout **Troop Funnel Cake Booth would fall into this category of producing rev**enue for the Scouting activities their members will enjoy...such as camp registrations, High-Adventures, over-night camping supplies and general troop needs. This group, like many other non-profit organizations, will work together on this Labor Day weekend, in order to assist with the costs for the organization they support.

As with many vendors, the Nativity of Mary SCG Booth has experienced a long history with the SCG Festival. St Mary's High School was the original vendor for this booth. After St. Mary's High School closed, this booth was transferred over to the Nativity of Mary Youth group in 2013. In 2021, an Eagle Scout project resulted in the building of the Funnel Cake Trailer. Now, it was official...Nativity of Mary Boy Scout Troop 1178 became the designated vendor for this opportunity. Last year, the Nativity of Mary Boy Scout Troop 1178, was the only source of funnel cakes at the SCG Festival. Needless to say, it was a record year! According to the leader of the booth, Christa Harris, they ran out of product on Friday night. Of course, there were three more days and two more nights to serve Funnel Cakes. The group began "searching" the area for the product and they were able to locate a commercial batter to complete the weekend of funnel cake sales.

Celebrating the membership anniversaries of longstanding Chamber supporters.

1-4 Years - July-September 2022

Marcie Gragg

MyMedicareRates.com Inc Morgan Miller Plumbing

Legal Shield

Webbe Consulting Group

Eclairs de la Lune KC, LLC

Rink Ratz Inc.

Gaffney & Company, LLC

Liberty Exposition Services

Alyssa K Scholl Agency, LLC

Laura Lynne Real Estate

Musketeer Home Care

Town Home Improvements, LLC dba THI

Roofing & Gutters, LLC

Billie Preston

Ain't Yo Momma Kitchen

Dog Training Elite Kansas City South

Tivona Naturals

Gutter Helmet

Greenlight Dispensary

Archwell Health

Spitaleri Law Firm

Western Governors University

Medicare Simplified KC

Blue Mills Plumbing LLC dba Val Gross Plumbing **Joy Coffee LLC**

Edward Jones Financial Advisor: Carson F. Burke

Hugo Becker

StorTropolis

Summit Salon Academy KC Metro Motors KC

Dutzel's Catering

Deals Thrift Mart

Mark One Electric Co., Inc.

Kansas City Structural Steel Inc

Bolero Salon and Spa

Jimmy John's Gourmet Sandwiches

KMC Dermatology

HopeKids Kansas City

Pinnacle Bank

Marshall Arts Productions

Cedarhurst of Blue Springs

BlendWell Community Cafe

SCOOB'S TINT & DENTS

Ennovation Center

Farmers Insurance The Bryan Hunter Agency

Lion's Choice

15-24 Years - July-September 2022

CPros Inc

Jackson County Audiology

Jackson County Electrical Services Inc

Swope Health

Kiwanis Club of Independence

McDonald's Restaurant - 18910 E US Highway 40

Lew Printing

Hilton Garden Inn Independence

The Big Biscuit

Hillcrest Transitional Housing

Kansas City Chiefs Football Club, Inc

25-39 Years - July-September 2022

Edward Jones, Craig Bolger

The Salvation Army

American Medical Response

AFS Insurance

Community Services League

Independence Economic Development Council

5-14 Years - July-September 2022

First National Business Corporation (FNBC-Kansas

Sarah Cannon Cancer Center

CenterWell

St. Mary's Medical Center

Los Cabos Mexican Grill & Cantina

JG Contracting, LLC

Cunningham Auto and Collision CARSTAR

Edward Jones, Drew Hammer

Dental Excellence

Driskill Business Development Group, Inc./Sandler

Training

Paychex

Liberty Tax Service

City of Independence Tourism

Rotary Club of Eastern Independence

Susan Appleberry Widick, DDS, PC

Beth Franklin Real Estate Team at Keller Williams

Truman Heritage Habitat for Humanity

Cosentino's Sunfresh

Cable Dahmer Arena

Independence Hydraulics Inc.*

TNC Community

Central Bank of the Midwest

Central Bank - 23rd St

Central Bank - Commercial Lending Center

Drumm Farm Golf Club

40-49 Years - July-September 2022

Cable Dahmer Buick GMC

Cardwell & Associates **HEMCO Corporation**

Sladek Do It Best Hardware

State Farm Insurance, Blake Roberson

WE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR YOUR SUPPORT, YOUR **ENGAGEMENT AND MOST OF ALL YOUR COMMITMENT TO** THE INDEPENDENCE COMMUNITY! WITH MEMBERS LIKE YOU, WE CAN MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT WITH MANY **BUSINESS INITIATIVES.**



April-June 2022

Adjuvant Physical Therapy LLC: **Adobe Brent Schondelmeyer Consulting Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center** Dedicated Senior Medical Center **Garcia Family Medicine** GO Car Wash **Healing Frequency Massage Here on Earth LLC**

Lucas Commercial Flooring Group, Inc. **MALL ZONE LLC** Market Advisory Group Oak Street Health Paws & Pals **_RYAN'S, LLC** Saffirian Security **Superior Electrical Construction** The Davies Group, Chartwell Realty

FOR MORE INFO ABOUT THESE BUSINESSES & ALL CHAMBER MEMBERS VISIT THE CHAMBER DIRECTORY WWW.BUSINESS.ICHAMBER.BIZ/DIRECTOR





HE MEDALLION HUNT

For the 50th celebration of the festival, in collaboration with the **The Examiner**, we are bringing back the medallion treasure hunt! Clues pointing the treasure hunter to the location of the medallion will be published by The Examiner until all 8 medallions have been found. The medallion will be hidden at public locations in Independence. Clues will also be posted on the SantaCaliGon Days Festival Facebook page. When a medallion is found the hunter will scan the QR code on the back of the medallion to register and claim their spot to win the **GRAND PRIZE WORTH \$500**.

SPONSORED BY: THE EXAMINER

One winner will be randomly selected on Friday, Sept. 2nd, at the Main Stage during the festival.

JULY LUNCHEON Featured Speaker



Mayor Kory Kowland City of Independence

Please register and plan to attend the July Membership Luncheon where Mayor Rory Rowland will be our guest speaker. Mayor Rowland will give an update on his first '100 Days' in office as mayor of the City of Independence.

PLEASE REGISTER TO ATTEND!

JULY

Wednesday

20

11:30 AM-1:00 PM



The City House 14300 E ÚS Hwy 40 **Kansas City, MO**

PRESENTING SPONSOR



AUGUST LUNCHEON

State of the Schools



Dr. Dale Herl Independence School District



Ft. Osage **School District**



Dr. Jason Snodgrass Dr. Robert Jerome **Blue Springs** School District

Please join us for the August Membership Luncheon, where we will be hearing from the local Superintendents on the current State of the Schools!

Dr. Dale Herl will provide updates on the Independence School District, Dr. Jason Snodgrass will provide updates on the Fort Osage School District, and Dr. Bob Jerome will provide updates on the Blue Springs School District.

PLEASE REGISTER TO ATTEND!

AUGUST

Wednesday

11:30 AM-1:00 PM

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

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

If you are interested in sponsoring this event, please contact Andréa Zorich - andrea@ichamber.biz or call (816) 607-4911

Officers:

Chair of the Board i360 Insurance, LLC

Doug Cowan

Treasurer Community Services League **Matt Medley**

Chair Elect 3 Trails Brewing Company

Beth Franklin

Past Chair of the Board Keller Williams Real Estate

Ex Officio Members:

Kurt Graham

Harry S Truman Library

Dr. Dale Herl

Independence School District

Dr. Robert Jerome

Blue Springs School District

Dr. Thomas Meyer MCC - Blue River

Dr. Jason Snodgrass

Fort Osage School District

Zach Walker

City of Independence

Board of Directors:

Aaveg Anand GEHA

Jim Allin Fish Window Cleaning

Austin Conley

Austin Conley Agency

Alec Cook

Continental Siding

Ron Finke

Stewardship Capital

Bob Glaser

Community America Credit Union

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Blue Ridge Bank & Trust

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Cruise Planners

Bret Kolman

Centerpoint Medical Center

Christina Leakey

Truman Habitat for Humanity

Cindy McClain

McClain Enterprises, Inc.

Brad Smith

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Speaks Family Legacy Chapels

Terri Steele

Evans & Steele Financial, LLC

Trevor Tilton

The Trevor Tilton Farmers Agency

Laurie Dean Wiley

Financial Advisor - Hoot Owl Financial

Jonathan Zerr

Kapke & Willerth, LLC

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President & CEO tom@ichamber.biz

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Amy Knipp

SantaCaliGon Festival Director amy@ichamber.biz

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

Paula McKinney Director of Membership paula@ichamber.biz

Kris Zerr

Vice President & Director of Finance kris@ichamber.biz

Andréa Zorich **Director of Events Coordination** andrea@ichamber.biz



210 W. Truman Rd. Phone: (816) 252-4745 www.ichamber.biz

PAULA MCKINNEY (PPOINTED MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

On July 1st, Paula McKinney was appointed as the new Director of Membership. Paula will continue to carry on the efforts of the Chamber's priority of membership growth through recruitment and retention. Paula will also assume the full responsibility of providing support services for the position.

Help us congratulate Paula as the new Membership Director!



Paula McKinney Director of Membership

CONTACT INFO:

EMAIL - paula@ichamber.biz | OFFICE PHONE - (816) 356-6121

July/Aug/Sept 2022 15

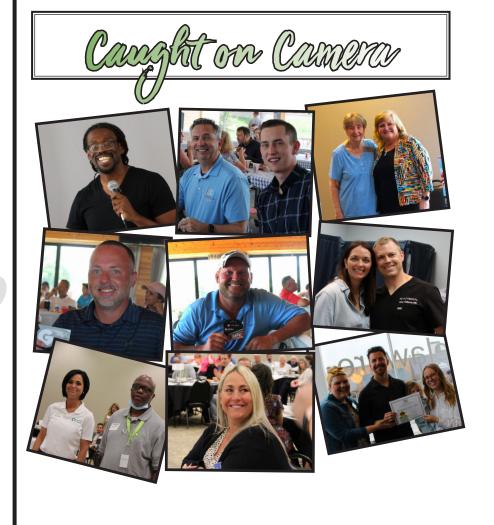


"Most of the important things in the world have been accomplished by people who have kept on trying when there seemed to be no hope at all."

~ Dale Carnegie ~



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



Save The Mate



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE:

Contact Andréa Zorich - andrea@ichamber.biz or call (816) 607-4911