

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

April/May/June 2023



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.

Regional Leader



Community Leaders







A GREAT AMERICAN STORY











CHAMBER GOLF CLASS/C FRIDAY JUNE 30, 2023 WINTERSTONE GOLF COURSE

SIGN UP BY JUNE 3RD FOR THE BEST PRICING!

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE!

Prizes Raffles & Fur





EARLY BIRD TEAM PRICING UNTIL JUNE 3RD!

CHAMBER MEMBERS: \$500/EARLY BIRD TEAM

\$550/TEAM AFTER JUNE 3RD -OR- \$150/INDIVIDUAL

NON-MEMBER: \$600/EARLY BIRD TEAM

\$650/TEAM AFTER JUNE 3RD -OR- \$175/INDIVIDUAL

7:00 AM
REGISTRATION
& BREAKFAST
8:00 AM
SHOTGUN START

TO SIGN UP OR FOR MORE INFO CONTACT ANYONE AT THE CHAMBER INFO@ICHAMBER.BIZ OR 816.252.4745

APRIL 6

RIBBON CUTTING 1:00 PM-2:00 PM Blystone Insurance Agency 2866 S State Route 291, Suite E

AND

EJC BASH 4:30 PM - 7:00 PM KC Zoo 6800 Zoo Drive, Kansas City MO 64132



Join us for an evening at the KC Zoo as we kick off a fun-filled event featuring networking, vendor showcases, heavy hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar, and much more.

EJC CHAMBER OF COMMERCES

Independence, Blue Springs, Grandview, Lee's Summit, Raytown and South Kansas City

APRIL 7

FOODIE FRIDAY 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Smokehouse BBQ 19000 E 39th St



APRIL 10

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

APRIL 11

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

AND

RIBBON CUTTING 2:00 PM-3:00 PM FYZICAL Therapy and Balance Centers 20120 E Jackson Drive, Suite B

APRIL 12

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

APRIL 13 & 14

COMMUNITY EXCHANGE TRIP TO WEST DES MOINES, IOWA All Day

APRIL 17

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM Chamber of Commerce

APRIL 18

YIPS BEFORE HOURS 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM ECLAIRS de la LUNE 205 N Main St



Join the YIPs for this special Before Hours event! We will be visiting our friends at Eclairs de la Lune for a special tour of the space, along with a pop in from Pleasant Street Coffee.

APRIL 19

MEMBERSHIP BREAKFAST 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM Hilton Garden Inn 19677 E Jackson Dr



Featured Panelists







Plan to attend the Membership

Breakfast, where we will be featuring a

panel for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

by partnering with our friends at

West iNd Connection.

PRESENTING SPONSOR





APRIL 21

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



APRIL 24

RIBBON CUTTING 4:30 PM-5:30 PM Dental Depot 16801 E Us Hwy 24

APRIL 25

SMALL BUSINESS BREAKFAST CLUB
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM
Chamber of Commerce
210 W Truman Rd

This month Carter Broadcasting will give a presentation on local digital marketing and how it can work behind the scenes to attract the target market for your business.

APRIL 26

IEDP ADVISORY BOARD MEETING 8:00 AM-9:00 AM Chamber of Commerce

AND

RIBBON CUTTING 4:30 PM-5:30 PM Marie A Hudson Farmers Insurance 1509 South Noland Road, Suite B

APRIL 27

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM United Consumers Credit Union 1111 East 23rd Street



MAY 2

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

MAY 5

FOODIE FRIDAY 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Los Cabos Mexican Grill 18201 E Bass Pro Drive



MAY 8

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

MAY 9

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

MAY 10

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

MAY 15

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM **Chamber of Commerce**

MAY 17

L.E.A.D. GRADUATION & MONTHLY **MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON** 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM **Church of the Four Corners 14300 E Us Highway 40**

Join us for the May Membership Luncheon featuring the graduation of this year's LEAD class!



MAY 19

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

MAY 23

SMALL BUSINESS BREAKFAST CLUB 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM **Chamber of Commerce** 210 W Truman Rd



MAY 24

RIBBON CUTTING 4:00 PM-5:00 PM **HIllcrest Transitional Housing** 209 E 3rd Drive South

JUNE 1

ANNUAL CHAMBER PICNIC 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM **Independence Uptown Market** 211 W Truman Rd.



Join your fellow Chamber Members for Member Appreciation Day.
FREE food, fun & networking! PLEASE RSVP so that we may plan accordingly!

JUNE 2

FOODIE FRIDAY 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM McAlister's Deli 19130 East 39th St



JUNE 6

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

JUNE 7

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

JUNE 12

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

JUNE 13

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

JUNE 14

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

JUNE 19

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM **Chamber of Commerce**

JUNE 27

SMALL BUSINESS BREAKFAST CLUB 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM SHALL BUSINESS. **Chamber of Commerce** BREAKFAST 210 W Truman Rd

JUNE 30

42ND ANNUAL CHAMBER GOLF CLASSIC 7:00 AM-3:00 PM **Winterstone Golf Course** 17101 E Kentucky Road



Join us for the 43rd Annual **Chamber Golf Classic! This** is one of the Chambers best opportunities to network with business leaders and golf with clients and associ-

CLUB

ates while genuinely having a great time. Participants will enjoy breakfast, lunch, contests, 50/50 Raffle, prizes and more!

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

If you are interested in hosting or sponsoring this event, please contact anyone at the Chamber by email at: info@iChamber.biz or call (816) 252-4745

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





PLEASE NOTE:

Event dates and details are subject to change without notice. Please check the Chamber calendar for the most current event details.





January 6, 2023

Laura Lynne Real Estate 317 W Kansas Ave, Suite B **Independence MO 64050**



January 13, 2023

Paws & Pals 3713 SW Hwy 40 Blue Springs, MO 64015



February 17, 2023

Studio FIVE 19310 E 50th Terr, Suite M **Independence, MO 64055**



February 17, 2023

WiNc Inclusion Center 10910 Winner Rd **Independence, MO 64052**



March 14, 2023

Club Car Wash 19151 E 39th Street South Independence, MO 64057





March 22, 2023

Comprehensive Behavioral Health Crisis Center 17421 Medical Center Parkway Independence, MO 64057



March 23, 2023

Lucas Commercial Flooring Group 9804 E 36th St S Independence, MO 64052



March 31, 2023

Sunshine Art by Nancy 709 W Maple Ave Independence, MO 64050



We would be delighted to help your business celebrate with a grand opening, new management, new location, or a remodel or expansion at your present location with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Please contact Paula McKinney at paula@ichamber.biz to schedule a ribbon cutting ceremony or scan the QR code to apply online.

BRIEFING

Interact with legislators representing Independence, hear legislative updates, and learn about activities at the local and state levels. The briefings are open to all Chamber members and are free of charge.



April 21, 2023 • 8:30 AM May 19, 2023 • 8:30 AM



Independence Chamber of Commerce 210 W. Truman Road Independence, MO 64050



Online via Zoom
Please register to receive
Zoom information







WHY DID YOU JOIN THE YOUNG INDEPENDENCE **PROFESSIONALS?**

In July of 2017, I founded the YIPs with a lot of help from the Chamber staff to bring more young professionals into the chamber and get young professionals more active within the chamber. I remember my first day walking into a Chamber luncheon nervous because I did not know anyone. I wanted future young professionals to not have to deal with that feeling. Our group gave young people a chance to make connections with their peers and then when they came to a luncheon, they would already have familiar faces to connect with.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A MEMBER OF THE CHAMBER?

About five and a half years

SCAN THE CODE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT YIPS



WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT **INDEPENDENCE?**

I love how unique this city and community is. Independence is a community full of down-to-earth good people with unique businesses that you do not get anywhere else. People step up for each other in this community and work together. That is special. I am so glad that I get be part of this amazing community.

YOUNG

INDEPENDENCE PROFESSIONALS

WHAT IS SOMETHING INTERESTING OR UNIQUE **ABOUT YOU OR YOUR STORY?**

I was born to parents who lived in Independence at the time and while my mother taught in the Independence School District her entire career of over 35 years, we left when I was about 3 years old, and I have not ever moved back to Independence since. But that never stopped us from being part of the community. Independence is where my family has always chosen to spend most our free time. Whether it is restaurants or shopping, my family continues frequent Independence businesses, consistently. And while I do not live in Independence, no one has ever made me not feel part of this community and that is special. Thank you for that!

Member Sportight



Lynne Baker
Business to
Education Connector

Your eyes scan the room, and among the blond, brown and occasional red headed individuals, your eyes will be drawn back to an unexpected color in the midst. You find the turquoise or bright pink or even a bright lime green, and you know you are about to meet a lovely, beautiful, welcoming and upbeat Charline Gray.

Charline, a member of the Independence Chamber of Commerce, has been a strong supporter of our Chamber, since coming on as a new member. She is from Kansas City, MO and graduated from Metro Tech where she learned the art of hairdressing. It was not long before Charline knew that being a beautician was not her "jam". She went on to do a variety of other careers, twenty-one years retail management with Casual Corner and twelve years as a personal banker, where she ended as a branch manager. Meanwhile, Charline was married and raising her own family, including her daughter and two of her cousins children who were foster children to her.

One of Charline's gifts is "gathering" friends along her journey through life. As her daughter became older, Charline's home became the "center" for her high school age friends. When her daughter's friends were short on cash, naturally they reached out to the person who had been there for them historically...Charline. Rather than becoming just a financial resource, Charline thought it was important for the girls to learn a better way of living, rather than depending on the generosity of others.

Originally, a cleaning company owned by Charline's friend, would find employment for the girls. However, Charline, decided in 2015, she would organize her own cleaning company and the girls would realize a greater percentage of income. In May 2022, Charline got the licenses, bonded and insured herself, as a cleaner for commercial businesses. Three months later, she quit her own corporate managerial post to become a full-time owner of The Cleaning Crew of KC.

Asking Charlene what she has learned as a business owner, she gave me a few tips which she has learned over the many years of working:

- As a business owner, you must have a passion for what you do!
- Don't start a business you don't know how to do, because, very likely, you will be called upon to step-in and do the job.
- Love people where they are in life! All of us have experienced problems, so it is important.
- To let them know they have value and worth.
- As a business owner, you need to have a position of "servant leadership" so people will know they are valued at work.



Charline is quite active in our Chamber. She told me it is like a "family, where everyone knows your name.... like Cheers". Charline, in action, illustrates what great networking is all about. She will tell you, it is like "talking to friends and family".

Charline's own values and principles have made her a very strong business owner. In August of 2022, she had one account. In less than a year, as of today, Charline is now managing fourteen accounts. Building her business relationships with integrity and honesty has been a cornerstone of her business principles. She also focuses on hiring workers who are transitioning through difficult circumstances. Like each of our Independence Chamber members, Charline brings a unique and experienced insight to her business. She thrives in learning and teaching others to make the most of their own talents, which can lead them to individually have more productive lives! We are glad you are one of us, Charline!



The L.E.A.D. class of 2022-23 is drawing near the end. For the past 8 months, the Independence L.E.A.D. class has gained insight to many industries within our community, such as education, health care, government, tourism, social services and economic development. Many were able to meet and build relationships with other talented like-minded Chamber members and leaders in their class throughout the year and beyond. In the end, everyone benefits as the class receives an expanding wealth of information, which in turn helps to achieve a better community for Independence.



REGISTER TODAY!

The 2023-24 L.E.A.D. class will meet 9 times on the third Thursday of each month from September to May. The class 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 - please contact the Chamber office at (816) 252-4745.



JOIN US ON MAY 17, 2023 FOR THE MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON & L.E.A.D. GRADUATION



Celebrate the graduates of the L.E.A.D. 2022-23

PLEASE KINDLY REGISTER ONLINE

Huppy Anniversaries of longstanding Chamber supporters.

1-4 Years - April-June 2023

RYAN'S. LLC

Aleuro

Biolife Plasma Services

Ace Pipe Cleaning, Inc.

Lucas Commercial Flooring Group, Inc.

European Furniture Center

Adobe

Market Advisory Group

Dedicated Senior Medical Center

Garcia Family Medicine

Here on Earth LLC

ING Events KC

Paws & Pals

Brent Schondelmeyer Consulting

Adjuvant Physical Therapy LLC.

Oak Street Health

Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center

Saffirian Security

Healing Frequency Massage

GO Car Wash

The Davies Group, Chartwell Realty

Superior Electrical Construction

The Trash Box

St. Croix Hospice

Mary Kay

Morton Man HVAC and Plumbing

Sunshine Artby Nancy

Classy Canines

Salvatore's Restaurant

Julie Moreno

Thomas R. and Eileen N. Weir

Edward Jones, Matt Flax

Treo Marketing

Blue Ridge Bank- Independence Square

Blue Ridge Bank- Sterling

Blue Ridge Bank- Raytown

Kansas City Property Solutions LLC

Gerken Rent-All Inc.

Landmark National Bank

Pure Water Oasis

Cook Ellis, LLC

5-14 Years - April-June 2023

Alicia Scott State Farm Agency

Commercial Concepts & Furnishings

State Farm Agent, Lesley Siegfried

Under the Awning Boutique

Carter Broadcast Group, Inc.

FISH Window Cleaning

Rainbow Center for Communicative Disorders

Laurie Dean Wiley, Financial Advisor - Hoot

Owl Financial

Centerpoint Physicians Group

Family Care of Independence

Midwest Neurology Physicians

Family Care of Eastern Jackson County

Jackson County Pulmonary Medical Group LLC

John Kimak

Nancy C. Kimak

Bank Midwest

Minsky's Pizza

Job One

Evans and Steele Financial Services

Bass Pro Shops

Hollis+Miller Architects

Kansas City Managed IT

GFI Digital

R & K Auto Body LLC

Alissa's Flowers, Fashion & Interiors

A Little Bar-B-Q-Joint

Jackson County

JE Dunn Construction Co

Planet Fitness- Noland Rd.

Sound Check

County Beverage Company Inc.

Pepperwood Apartments - Office

Monterey Park Rehabilitation & Health Care

Midwest Public Risk

Town & Country Building Services

Staybridge Suites

Mid-Continent Public Library-South Independence

Mid-Continent Public Library- North Independence

Branch

Mid-Continent Public Library-Administrative

Headquarters

Mid-Continent Public Library - Midwest Genealogy

Missouri Employers Mutual Insurance

15-24 Years - April-June 2023

Reece & Nichols Realtors, Daniel O'Neill

Eastland Trails Apartments

Better Business Bureau

American Funding Solutions LLC

American Sweeping Inc.

Burd & Fletcher Co.

Opdahl & Bowen DDS, PC

CommunityAmerica Credit Union- Noland

Fairmount Plaza Apartments

Winterstone Golf Course

Carrabba's Italian Grill

Edward Jones, Corey Long

State Farm Insurance, Kim Downey Noble

25-39 Years - April-June 2023

Kansas City Royals

Widick Marketing

McDonald's Restaurant - 3921 Bolger Road

ServiceMark Telecom

Corporate CopyPrint

Custom Engineering Inc.

Landmark Dodge Chrysler Jeep

Edward Jones, Doug Hammer

Metropolitan Community College - Blue River

Child Abuse Prevention Association (CAPA)

Hi-Boy Drive-In

McDonald's Restaurant - 16235 E. 24 Highway

Burns & McDonnell

Discover Vision Centers

Community of Christ International Headquarters

40-49 Years - April-June 2023

Graceland University - Independence Campus Independence Adult & Community Education Humphrey, Farrington, & McClain, PC BRE Space Kansas City, Inc. Cable-Dahmer Chevrolet Inc The Examiner

WE ARE VERY 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.





January-March 2023

AtWork Personnel Services
Centerwell Senior Primary Care
Club Car Wash
Comprehensive Mental Health Services
Behavioral Crisis Center
D Cheryl Bradley CPA LLC
DonutNV Independence
Dynamic Appliance Service LLC
FYZICAL Therapy & Balance Centers
Mid-America LGBT Chamber of Commerce
Pawportunities Animal Welfare Services
REAL Moxie LLC
Studio F.I.V.E.
Vision Source Noland Rd
Your Soldmate Ro of KW Key Partners, LLC

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



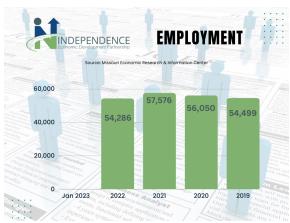




Visit the NEW IEDP page on the Chamber's website

ichamber.biz/iedp

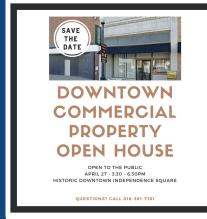




FEATURED REAL ESTATE



- Impeccably cared for class A property, with recently renovated office interior
- Offered well below half of replacement cost
- Surplus land for pad site development, or expansion
- Efficient floor plates & modern mechanical systems
- Abundant surface parking
- 95,527 Sq. Footage \$109.92/Sq. Ft.



DOWNTOWN COMMERICAL PROPERTY OPEN HOUSE

Have you looked at a vacant building in our historic district and wondered what it looked like on the inside? Join us at Historic Independence Square Downtown Commercial Property Open House on April 27th from 3:30 - 6:30PM to check out the variety of buildings available for lease or sale. This FREE event is open to the public. A property owner or realtor will be available at several locations to offer information. Check back soon for the list of properties. This event will be updated as properties are committed.

CONTACT JODI FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INQUIRIES

Jodi Krantz, Senior Vice President Independence Economic Development Partnership (IEDP) Email: jodi@ichamber.biz Phone: 816-463-3512

Ifficers:

Chair Elect 3 Trails Brewing Company

Doug Cowan

Treasurer Community Services League Yvonne Hall

Chair Elect Blue Ridge Bank

Eric Knipp

Past Chair of the Board i360 Insurance, LLC

Ex Officio Members:

Kurt Graham

Harry S Truman Library

Dr. Dale Herl

Independence School District

Dr. Robert Jerome

Blue Springs School District

MCC - Blue River

Dr. Jason Snodgrass

Fort Osage School District

Zach Walker

City of Independence

Board of Directors:

Continental Siding

Cori Day

Worlds of Fun

Patrick Farrell

NorthWest Communities Develop. Corporation/Fairmount Comm. Ctr.

Ron Finke

Stewardship Capital

Bob Glaser

Kim Connects KC Home Team

Mary House

Cruise Planners

Bret Kolman

Centerpoint Medical Center

Christina Leakey

Truman Habitat for Humanity

Alicia Scott

Alicia Scott State Farm Agency

Drumm Farm Center for Children

Kenny Soule

Asphaltic Surfaces

Brad Speaks

Speaks Family Legacy Chapels

Terri Steele

Evans & Steele Financial, L.L.C.

Dr. Matthew Tinnel

University Health Lakewood Dental Services

Trevor Tilton

The Trevor Tilton Farmers Agency

Laurie Dean Wiley

Financial Advisor - Hoot Owl Financial

Susan Wray

Mid-Continent Public Library

Jonathan Zerr

Kapke & Willerth, L.L.C.

Chamber Team:

Tom Lesnak **President & CEO** tom@ichamber.biz

Lynne Baker **Business to Education Connector** lynne@ichamber.biz

Mara Bradford **Administrative Assistant** mara@ichamber.biz

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

Amy Knipp SantaCaliGon Festival Director amy@ichamber.biz

Jodi Krantz Sr. Vice President Economic Development

jodi@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. Independence, MO 64050 Phone: (816) 252-4745 www.ichamber.biz

Inpact Awards

Inpact Awards are given to a business in recognition of the accomplishments created to positively impact the Independence economy, through capital investment and employment opportunities provided to residents.



Club Carwash



Comprehensive Mental Health Behavioral Crisis Center



"There are basically two types of people. People who accomplish things, and people who claim to have accomplished things. The first group is less crowded."

~ Mark Twain ~



OUR BUSINESS IS BUSINESS

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



