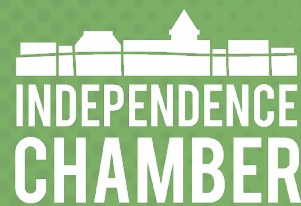


The Chamber

View



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

July/August/September 2023



**EDDIE MONTGOMERY
OF
MONTGOMERY
GENTRY**



**Main Stage
Entertainment
Saturday, Sept. 2nd
9:00 PM**

PRESENTED BY

xfinity



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



PRESENTED BY:
xfinity

LABOR DAY WEEKEND

HOSTED BY:


**INDEPENDENCE
CHAMBER**

1973 2023

SANTACALIGON

INDEPENDENCE, MO
★★★ 51 ★★★

★ *Featuring* ★

BLUFFET

A TRIBUTE TO JIMMY BUFFET
FRIDAY, SEPT. 1ST @ 9 PM

EDDIE MONTGOMERY
SAT, SEPT. 2ND @ 9 PM

**ELTON DAN & THE
ROCKET BAND**

SUN, SEPT. 3RD @ 9 PM

CARNIVAL ★ FREE ADMISSION ★ LIVE MUSIC
ARTS & CRAFTS ★ MAIN STREET 1849 ★ FESTIVAL FOOD

SEPT. 1ST-4TH, 2023

HISTORIC INDEPENDENCE SQUARE

**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
SANTACALIGON.COM**



July/August/Sept 2023 3

Calendar of Events

JULY

JULY 7

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



JULY 11

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

JULY 12

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

JULY 14

LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST
8:00 AM - 9:30 AM
Metropolitan Community College -
Longview
500 SW Longview Rd., Lees Summit, MO

JULY 14

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



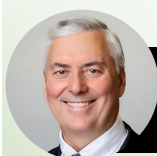
Join current ambassadors for an informational meeting as they will share more about the program and answer questions. The meeting will also discuss how serving as a Chamber Ambassador will make a difference for you, the community, and support local businesses and services.

JULY 17

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

JULY 19

MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Church of the Four Corners
14300 E Us Highway 40



Featured Speaker

Mayor Rory Rowland
City of Independence

We invite you to join us for our upcoming July Membership Luncheon. This luncheon will feature a special city update presentation by Mayor Rory Rowland and City Council members, providing valuable insights into the latest developments and initiatives happening in our city.



The New Member Showcase will feature exhibit tables where our newest members will present information about their businesses. It's a perfect chance for you to make valuable business connections and build professional relationships. Don't miss out on this exciting addition to our event!

PRESENTING SPONSOR



JULY 25

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



Featured Speaker

Jill Hathaway
Senior Development
Consultant - MO SBDC

TOPIC:
Strategic Choices Across a Business' Life Stages

During this session, Jill Hathaway, Senior Business Development Consultant with Missouri's SBDC at UMKC, will be sharing her expertise on how to overcome the barriers to growth in order to move your company to the next business life stage. Join us for an engaging discussion and gain valuable insights into how to move your business forward.

JULY 26

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

AUG

AUGUST 1

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

AUGUST 2

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

AUGUST 4

FOODIE FRIDAY
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
Whataburger
18811 E US 40 Hwy



AUGUST 8

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

AUGUST 9

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

AUGUST 11

YIPS BEFORE HOURS
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM
Campus Grounds
26911 E US Hwy 24,



AUGUST 16

MEMBERSHIP BREAKFAST & STATE OF THE SCHOOLS
8:00 AM - 9:30 AM
Church of the Four Corners- City House
14300 E Us Highway 40



Dr. Dale Herl
Independence
School District



Dr. Jason Snodgrass
Fort Osage School
District



Dr. Bob Jerome
Blue Springs
School District

Please join us for the Monthly Membership **BREAKFAST**, 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.

PRESENTING SPONSOR



AUGUST 21

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

AUGUST 31

SANTACALIGON DAYS FESTIVAL
CARNIVAL OPENS
5:00-11:00 PM
Historic Independence Square

SEPT

SEPTEMBER 1-4

SANTACALIGON DAYS FESTIVAL
Labor Day Weekend
Historic Independence Square



We are honored to host (along with our sponsor Xfinity), the 51st 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!

FESTIVAL HOURS:

- Carnival Opens on Thursday 5:00 PM - 11:00 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

PRESENTING SPONSOR



SEPTEMBER 11

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

SEPTEMBER 12

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

SEPTEMBER 13

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

SEPTEMBER 18

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

SEPTEMBER 21

L.E.A.D. INDEPENDENCE RETREAT
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Chamber of Commerce
210 W. Truman Rd.

SEPTEMBER 26

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



The Small Business Breakfast Club is a monthly opportunity to enjoy a continental breakfast, brief educational and informative presentation and network with fellow Chamber members.

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:
www.iChamber.biz



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

July/August/Sept 2023

Ribbon Cuttings



April 6, 2023

**Blystone Insurance Agency
2866 S State Route 291 Suite E
Independence, MO 64057**



April 11, 2023

**FYZICAL Therapy and Balance
Centers
20120 E Jackson Drive, Suite B
Independence, MO 64057**



April 12, 2023

**CenterWell
300 N Osage St, Ste 200
Independence, MO 64050**



April 24, 2023

**Dental Depot
16801 E Us Hwy 24
Independence, MO 64056**



April 26, 2023

**Marie A Hudson Farmers
Insurance Agency
1509 S Noland Road, Suite B
Independence , MO 64055**



May 24, 2023

**Hillcrest Transitional Housing
209 E 3rd Drive South
Independence, MO 64050**



May 25, 2023

**McBee's Coffee N Carwash
1703 E 23rd Street South
Independence, MO 64055**



June 2, 2023

**Market 1900 Apartment Homes
1900 S Brookstone Village Dr
Independence, MO 64057**



June 8, 2023

**Fit Learning KC
4240 Blue Ridge Blvd
Kansas City, MO 64133**



June 16, 2023

**GO CHEW Burger & Sandwich
Food Truck**



June 21, 2023

**Paramount Health
20001 E Jackson Dr Ste A
Independence, MO 64057**

Joint Chamber County Legislative Breakfast

Friday, July 14, 2023

8:00 AM - 9:30 AM

Metropolitan Community College-Longview
500 SW Longview Rd., Lees Summit

Join us for a Joint Chamber County Legislative Breakfast. All nine Jackson County Legislators and the County Executive have been invited to attend. Attend to hear committee updates and have a chance to ask questions of legislators.

Breakfast
\$16

**REGISTER ONLINE
TO ATTEND**



L.E.A.D. CLASS 2023

**APPLY
NOW!**

DEADLINE TO
REGISTER IS
SEPTEMBER 1ST

**NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR
THE L.E.A.D. 2023-2024 CLASS**



REGISTER TODAY! The 2023-2024 L.E.A.D. Independence class will meet 9 times on the third Thursday of each month from September to May. The L.E.A.D. Independence 2023 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
MORE INFO
OR TO APPLY





Meet Lexi Pardee

***Development & Communications
Coordinator at
Community Services League***

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

To learn about local companies and connect with other Young Professionals

**HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A MEMBER
OF THE CHAMBER?**

Since June 2021



YOUNG

INDEPENDENCE PROFESSIONALS

**YOUNG PROFESSIONAL
OF THE QUARTER
SPOTLIGHT**

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

My favorite thing about Independence is the passion that everyone has for our community.

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

Something interesting about me is I am also Head Coach of a High School Dance Team and I have been coaching for five years.

**Want to learn more about the
Independence Young Professionals?**



**SCAN THE CODE
TO LEARN MORE**

July/August/Sept 2023 **9**



SantaCaliGon Days Festival 2023

Presented by: **xfinity**



Lynne Baker
Business to
Education Connector

The SantaCaliGon Festival doesn't happen by magic, nor in a couple of weeks of planning. Under the leadership of Amy Knipp, the director of all things SCG, meetings begin in the month of May, to "hammer out" the details of the fifty-one-year festival. Yet, this isn't the beginning. On the final day of the festival, Monday of Labor Day Weekend, vendors gather at the Chamber to reserve space for the following year. Within weeks, the Entertainment Committee is already reviewing the entertainment for the following year.

The SCG Festival hosts hundreds of volunteers, who work together, to bring this awesome entertainment to the community. Terri and Greg Steele have served over 25 years as volunteers. Their three daughters, Amy, Lindsey and Ashley continue the family tradition in volunteering at festival with their families.



One of our finest and most faithful volunteers, Wayne Stewart, comes from a great distance to volunteer at SCG. Growing up in Brookside, Wayne knew little about Independence. After moving to Independence and becoming involved in the Independence Chamber of Commerce, he became involved in a variety of programs. One which was the D.A.R.E. program. He participated in a project for D.A.R.E., "Dunk a Cop" at the festival and that was the beginning of Wayne's participation in SCG. Wayne, like many of the volunteers, uses vacation time to volunteer at the festival year after year. Wayne stated, "Being involved in the community has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my lifetime. Independence welcomed me with open arms, and I have made a great deal of lasting friendships in Independence".



Other volunteers like Eric Knipp, started out as a volunteer at the Knights of Columbus booth. He was recruited to work the "Main Stage" and has enjoyed every moment for fifteen years. Beth Franklin moved to Independence, joined the Chamber, and quickly developed strong relationships in our community that led to 10 years of volunteer service to the festival. Independence natives, Jonathan Zerr, Troy Kuhnert, and Jeff Benson continue to support our community through active involvement and a genuine love for the festival.

When asked about favorite memories from their times of volunteering at SCG, many refer to the entertainers who performed at the festival. Dave Evans spoke about how surprised Wynonna Judd was regarding the fantastically large audience who came to hear her sing. There have also been times of great fun for the volunteers, as well. Eric Knipp recalls leaving his keys in his SCG golf cart

and finding it wrapped in duct tape and plastic wrap and tied to a tree.

The SantaCaliGon Festival wouldn't exist without the hundreds of individuals, who spend their time, energy and talent ensuring that everyone else has a wonderful time. As Beth said, "I can't imagine spending my Labor Day weekend anywhere else!"

We couldn't do it without you! Hats off to all those volunteers on the SCG organizing committee...as well as the many others who make SCG such a great experience for our community!



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. Today, it celebrates music, tradition, family, and fun! More than 300,000 attendees spend Labor Day Weekend at the region's oldest and largest festival.



Witness history, enjoy great entertainment by talented performers, check out products created by artists, entrepreneurs, and craftsmen. It's a big community party where there is truly something for everyone!

Sponsorship Opportunities

With attendance of more than 300,000 the SantaCaliGon Days Festival is a great way to showcase your products and services and gain brand recognition! Seasoned vendors report having their greatest success and highest sales at SCG. Your sponsorship supports this longstanding community tradition celebrating 51 years over Labor Day weekend, 2023! We are happy to offer fantastic entertainment this year on two stages! For more information on participating, please contact Amy Knipp - amy@ichamber.biz



July/August/Sept 2023 11

Happy Anniversary!

Celebrating the membership anniversaries of longstanding Chamber supporters.

1-4 Years - July-Sept. 2023

Abundant Life Independence
Ain't Yo Momma Kitchen
Archwell Health
Athletico
Blue Mills Plumbing LLC dba Val Gross Plumbing
Blystone Insurance Agency
Crumbl Cookies
Deals Thrift Mart
Dog Training Elite Kansas City South
Dutzel's Catering
Eclairs de la Lune KC, LLC
Edward Jones Financial Advisor: Carson F. Burke
Enchanted CPR LLC
EPIC Sports Lodge
Fort Nutrition
Gaffney & Company, LLC
Independence Manor Care Center
Jimmy John's Gourmet Sandwiches
Justin Garner Dentistry
Kansas City Structural Steel Inc
KMC Dermatology
Laura Lynne Real Estate
Liberty Exposition Services
Mark One Electric Co., Inc.
Marshall Arts Productions
Medicare Simplified KC
Metro Motors KC
Morgan Miller Plumbing
Musketeer Home Care
Nate Tate the Insurance Guy
Nirvana Coffee Bar and Game Lounge
Out & In Moving
Pinnacle Bank
Silver Heart Inn
State Public Safety & Investigations
Summit Salon Academy KC
The Cleaning Crew of KC LLC
The Krystal Venue LLC
The Luxe Event Space
Three Oaks Hospice
Western Governors University

5-14 Years - July-Sept. 2023

Beth Franklin Real Estate Team at Keller Williams
BlendWell Community Cafe
Cable Dahmer Arena
CenterWell Senior Primary Care
Central Bank - 23rd St
Central Bank - Commercial Lending Center
Central Bank of the Midwest
City of Independence Tourism
Cosentino's Sunfresh
Dental Excellence
Driskill Business Development Group, Inc./Sandler Training
Drumm Farm Golf Club
Edward Jones, Drew Hammer
Ennovation Center
First National Business Corporation (FNBC-Kansas City)
Independence Hydraulics Inc.
JG Contracting, LLC
Liberty Tax Service
Lion's Choice
Los Cabos Mexican Grill & Cantina
Rotary Club of Eastern Independence
Sarah Cannon Cancer Center
SCOOB'S TINT & DENTS
St. Mary's Medical Center
Susan Appleberry Widick, DDS, PC
TNC Community
Truman Heritage Habitat for Humanity Center

15-24 Years - July-Sept. 2023

Hilton Garden Inn Independence
Jackson County Audiology
Jackson County Electrical Services Inc
Kiwanis Club of Independence
Lew Printing
McDonald's Restaurant - 18910 E US Highway 40

25-39 Years - July-Sept. 2023

AFS Insurance
American Medical Response
Community Services League
Edward Jones, Craig Bolger
Hillcrest Transitional Housing
Kansas City Chiefs Football Club, Inc
The Salvation Army

40-49 Years - July-Sept. 2023

State Farm Insurance, Blake Roberson
HEMCO Corporation
Cable-Dahmer Buick GMC
Sladek Do it Best Hardware

**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.**

*Cheers for
Success to all!*



April-June 2023

**1st Class Administrative Services LLC
3rd Generation Plumbing
Authentic Life Clinical Counseling & Wellness
Baptist Homes of Independence
Coomber Consulting LLC
Dream Vacations - Jason Fiola & Associates
Fit Learning KC
Fully Promoted Independence
Gutter Helmet
GVC Chiropractic of Independence
KC Scholars
Life Storage Store 8548
LR Taylor Agency LLC
Market 1900 Apartment Homes
McBee's Coffee N' CarWash
Meyers Funeral Chapel Inc
Ravelco Midwest LLC
RW Bolger Square LLC
Timeless Art Portrait Studio**

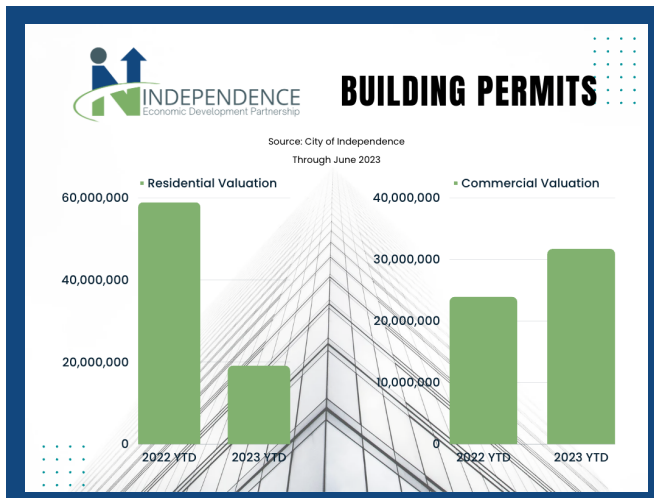
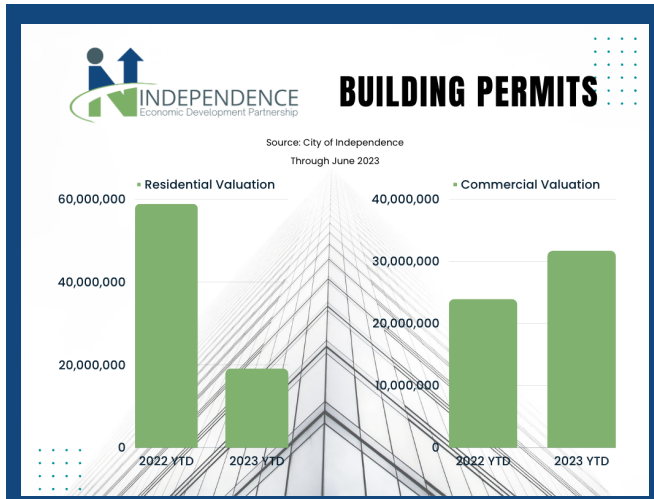
**FOR MORE INFO ABOUT THESE BUSINESSES
& ALL CHAMBER MEMBERS**

**VISIT THE CHAMBER DIRECTORY
WWW.BUSINESS.ICHAMBER.BIZ/DIRECTORY**

**SCAN QR CODE
FOR THE
DIRECTORY**



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IMPACT AWARDS



Blystone Insurance Agency

Dental Depot



FYZICAL Therapy & Balance Centers

Hillcrest Transitional Youth Program



Paramount Health Chiropractic



McBee's Coffee N Carwash



Market 1900 Apartment Homes

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INQUIRIES CONTACT

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

Officers:

Matt Medley
Chair
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

Dr. Thomas Meyer
MCC - Blue River

Dr. Jason Snodgrass
Fort Osage School District

Zach Walker
City of Independence

Board of Directors:

Alec Cook
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 Leahey
Truman Habitat for Humanity

Alicia Scott
Alicia Scott State Farm Agency

Brad Smith
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:

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210 W. Truman Rd.
Independence, MO 64050
Phone: (816) 252-4745
www.ichamber.biz

COMING SOON!

THE MEDALLION HUNT RETURNS!



SPONSORED BY:

THE EXAMINER
INDEPENDENCE • BLUE SPRINGS • GRAIN VALLEY

For the 51st celebration of the festival, in collaboration with the **The Examiner**, we are bringing back the **SantaCaliGon** medallion treasure hunt again this year! Clues pointing the treasure seeker to the location of the medallions will be published by The Examiner until all 8 medallions have been found.

The medallions 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 seeker will scan the QR code on the back of the medallion to register and claim their spot to win the **GRAND PRIZE WORTH \$500**.



One winner will be randomly selected on **Friday, Sept. 1st**, at the **Main Stage** during the festival.

HAPPY HUNTING!

July/August/Sept 2023 15



Leadership

Quote of the Quarter

“There are many roads to success, but only one sure road to failure; and that is to try to please everyone else.”

~ Benjamin Franklin ~



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

Caught on Camera



Save The Date

