

#### **QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER**

Oct/Nov/Dec 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

PRESENTED BY:





**GET INVOLVED IN THE FUN!** PARTICIPATE, SPONSOR OR VOLUN

### **QUESTIONS?**

For questions, or to participate or become a sponsor of the parade, please visit the website or contact Mara Bradford at mara@ichamber.biz

**SCAN THE CODE** 





#### **OCTOBER 9**

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

#### **OCTOBER 10**

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

#### OCTOBER 11

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

#### OCTOBER 13

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.

#### OCTOBER 16

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

#### PLEASE NOTE:

Event dates and details are subject to change without notice.

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

#### OCTOBER 18

**MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON** 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM **Truman Heritage Habitat for Humanity Hiram Young School** 501 N Dodgion Ave



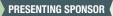




**Charline Gray** The Cleaning **Downey Construction** Crew KC

Michele Shanahan Demoss Under the Awning Boutique, Donut NV, & Blair's Foster Socks

Get ready to be inspired and empowered at the October Membership Luncheon! Our 'Women in Business' Panel brings together three dynamic and visionary female business owners who will share their insights, stories, and strategies for success.





#### **OCTOBER 24**

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



#### OCTOBER 25

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

#### OCTOBER 27

**RIBBON CUTTING & GRAND OPENING** 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM Cargo Largo 3232 S. Noland Rd



#### **OCTOBER 28**

75TH ANNUAL HALLOWEEN PARADE 10:00 AM **Historic Independence SCARE (Square)** 116 W. Lexington





#### **NOVEMBER 2**

PROGRESSIVE PARTY-PEACE, LOVE, **GRUB-CHAMBER POWER** 4:30 PM-6:00 PM **Chamber of Commerce** 

Join us for the 10th Annual Progressive Party where you progress through every room in the Chamber offices to find enticing food, drink and games from awesome chamber businesses. The vibe this year is Peace, Love, **Grub-Chamber Power. A kind of sock it** to me 60's throw back when life was groovy and music ruled. Don't be too cool to where the threads and embrace vour inner hippie.

#### **NOVEMBER 3**

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



#### **NOVEMBER 7**

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

#### **NOVEMBER 8**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING & RETREAT** 8:00 AM - 11:30 AM **Drumm Farm** 3210 S. Lee's Summit Rd.

#### **NOVEMBER 13**

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

#### **NOVEMBER 14**

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

#### **NOVEMBER 15**

**MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON** 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM Stoney Creek Hotel 18011 Bass Pro Dr

Development in Independence is getting exciting. With the demolition of the old K-Mart building, Fashion Square out for a redevelopment bid, 2 new proposed apartment projects and of course NorthPoint finishing up the build of their first 2 284,000+ square foot buildings there is a lot to hear about. Join us for a panel discussion on industrial office. a panel discussion on industrial, office and retail development in Independence. Industry experts will update you on current plans and see a new fly over video on recent projects

#### 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

#### **NOVEMBER 20**

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

#### **NOVEMBER 25**

**SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY** 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM **Independence Square** 



#### **NOVEMBER 28**

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



#### **DECEMBER 1**

L.E.A.D. ALUMNI HOLIDAY LUNCHEON 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM Carrabba's Italian Grill 19900 E Valley View Pkwy



LEAD Alum! You're invited to join us for some holiday cheer at the L.E.A.D. Alumni Holiday luncheon. Join us for fun, fellowship and prizes! Plus, meet the 2023-2024 class.

#### **DECEMBER 5**

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

#### **DECEMBER 6**

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

#### **DECEMBER 7**

**HOLIDAY BUSINESS AFTER HOURS** 4:30 PM-6:30 PM **Vaile Mansion** 1500 N Liberty Street

#### **DECEMBER 11**

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

#### **DECEMBER 12**

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

#### **DECEMBER 12**

YIPs ROCK, PAPER, SCISSORS TOURNAMENT AND NETWORKING EVENT 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM **3 Trails Brewery** YOUNG

#### **DECEMBER 13**

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

#### **DECEMBER 13**

MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM **The City House** 14300 É Us Highway 40

Be sure to make plans to join us for some holiday cheer at the December Holiday Membership Luncheon.

#### PRESENTING SPONSOR (



#### **DECEMBER 18**

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

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

www.iChamber.biz

SCAN CODE BELOW TO VIEW THE CHAMBER'S CALENDAR







August 11, 2023

CakeRef Custom Bakery (Inside EPIC Center KC) 19310 E 50th Terrace Independence, MO 64055



**August 15, 2023** 

GVC Chiropractic of Independence LLC 16920 E US Hwy 24 Suite B Independence, MO 64056



**September 15, 2023** 

paraMi 10707 E Winner Road Unit 240 Independence, MO 64052



**September 20, 2023** 

Summit Pizza 3010 S State Route 291 Independence, MO 64057



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.









# In the Books!

It was a hot one, but the SantaCaliGon Days Festival is officially in the books, and we couldn't be more grateful for the incredible support from our amazing community!!

A BIG THANK YOU from the Independence Chamber of Commerce to each and every one of you who came out to the festival, braving the heat to support the fantastic SantaCaliGon vendors, Square merchants, and talented performers. Your presence and enthusiasm made this weekend unforgettable, and we hope you you made some incredible memories along the way.

Our gratitude doesn't stop there! We have to give a HUGE shoutout to our sponsors and volunteers. Your unwavering dedication, countless hours of hard work, and commitment to making the SantaCaliGon Days Festival a resounding success year after year are truly awe-inspiring. You're the heartbeat of this event, and we couldn't do it without you.

Your generous support has helped us keep this long-standing community tradition alive and thriving. We couldn't have asked for better partners in our mission to celebrate our history, culture, and the spirit of togetherness.

As we wrap up this year's festivities, we're already looking forward to next year's celebration, where we'll mark a remarkable milestone - #52! So, save the date, (Labor Day Weekend 2024 - August 30-Sept. 2nd) help spread the word, and get ready for another incredible year of fun, friendship, and unforgettable moments.

Once again, THANK YOU, sponsors, volunteers, vendors and all of you who make the SantaCaliGon Days Festival the incredible event it is. Here's to many more years of cherished memories and community spirit!







Save the Date **Labor Day Weekend** 2024

### THANK YOU

2023 SANTACALIGON SPONSORS-



# Member Sportight



Meet Laurie Carpenter!

Authentic Life Clinical Counseling

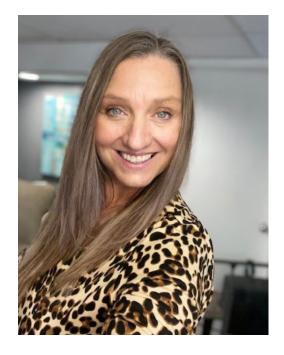
& Wellness

Business to
Education Connector

Water running down her face, sitting on a small makeshift stool, waiting for the next person to hit the bullseye, throwing Laurie Carpenter into the water, is a dream come true for her. Laurie is the owner and therapist of Authentic Life Clinical Counseling & Wellness When she hits the water, she is making money for her Non-profit organization!

Laurie grew up in Independence, experiencing life struggles as she attended Bridger Middle School and William Chrisman High School. She knew she was not moving in the direction she desired, but was unsure about the steps needed to get away from the issues impacting her.

Her defining moment came in a subtle tugging by God on her heart, as she listened to His call, finding her purpose. She began attending Maple Woods, where she graduated as a recipient of the Trustee Transfer Scholarship, which recognized her as the non-traditional student of the year.



She credits the assistance of others, school counselors and social workers, as directing her desire to help others, just as she had been helped. After receiving her Master's Degree in Social Work, she began to work, gaining experience. She was a therapist at Lakewood Counseling Services, which was operating under the umbrella of the University Health Care System, in the drug addiction recovery program. She also was the Team Lead for the Comprehensive Mental Health Center's Residential Care Facility for SPMI (Severe and persistent Mental illness). Laurie gained additional experience as the Lead Therapist for the Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) with Signature Psychiatric Hospital in the Northland.

Returning to her hometown of Independence, she wanted to start a home-based mental health practice in her home, using telehealth, which proved to be a "brilliant" move. When Covid became a reality and proved to be an excellent venue during that time, meeting the needs of her clients, in a different modality. Her business continued to grow, adding therapists and interns. During the December, 2021 Living Windows presentation on the Independence Square, she found an open space and began to seriously consider moving to a "bricks and mortar" location. After opening her business, she and her staff noticed a lot of people were calling for services, however, were unable to afford them.

# Member Spoilight Continued...

Again, Laurie began to tackle the issue of unaffordable mental health care! She attempted to find other organizations who would contribute to the funding of her non-profit, funding for mental health services. She found Diana Marshall, from her non-profit: Someone That Cares (S1TC), Diana, was working with

the River of Refuge, a transitional living program for families, at that time. **Together with other community minded** friends, they started, The Authentic Life Foundatio. Diana and Laurie began to search for other organizations, who were interested in helping folks with mental health issues, in our community. **She then found Life Church. East Kansas** City, who granted Laurie's non-profit a small grant. By the beginning of January, 2023, the non-profit had been formed and recognized by the Federal Government as a 501(C)3.

The foundational philosophy of Authentic Life Clinical Counseling & Wellness is: "All human beings have strengths. With the help of a therapist, the client



can define and use those strengths to overcome the obstacles which are challenging them from living the life they desire." Laurie's personal mission is to help continue and grow the number of professional helpers who serve the needs of others. Laurie is hopeful that the partnerships will continue, allowing those who could benefit from counseling services needed to live a healthier, more productive life. The Dunking tank at the SantiaCaliGon Festival was done for the benefit of The Authentic Life Foundation, as well as getting the word to the community that Authentic Life Clinical Counseling & Wellness was open

Laurie and her fellow therapists serve a broad variety of patient needs. Anxiety, Depression, Substance Abuse, Trauma, Suicidal Ideation, ADHD, Autism, and Crisis Counseling, as well as receiving referrals from Mental Health Hospitals provide the core client base for their clinic. She is happily married, parented two now-grown children and is providing care for her father, who currently lives with her and her husband. Laurie told me: "There was a moment I realized that my traumatic childhood had damaged me and I needed to break the cycle of generational trauma. Everyone deserves hope!"

**Learn more about Authentic Life Clinical Counseling &** Wellness by visiting their website: au-thenticlife.com

## Happy Anniversary!

Celebrating the membership anniversaries of longstanding Chamber supporters.

#### 1-4 Years - October-December 2023

Affordable Home Foundation Inc. **Allen Garner** 

Asphaltic Surfaces

**Austyn Anderson Summit Funding** 

**Auto Beauty Center** 

**Belle Nail Studio** 

**Bossladys Famous Shrimp** 

CakeRef Custom Bakery

Cardinal Points Construction, Inc.

Carrick on Argo

Central Bank - Noland Rd

**City Credit Union** 

**Community Access** 

**Control Printing Group, Inc** 

**Crown Staffing** 

**Curis Functional Health of Independence** 

**Dakota Worrell Dental Depot** 

**Design Mechanical** 

**DLR Architect Group** 

**Doug Goodwin** 

Edward Jones, Andrea McMillin

**Edward Jones, Michael Rowe** 

Elite Services & Repairs, LLC

**Englewood Arts** 

**Exploring Minds Academy** 

**Express Employment Professionals** 

**Family Investment Center** 

FedEx Ground

Fine Cut Concrete Drilling & Sawing LLC

**Focused Forensic Solutions, LLC** 

**GLMV Architecture** 

**GOCHEW Burger & Sandwich** 

**Habitat For Humanity ReStore** 

**Heartland Auto Glass** 

**Hirst Vox- Voice Productions** 

**Holy Rosary Credit Union** 

I Noah Guy Home Improvements

**JMH Pest Management LLC** 

**KC Floorworx** 

**Krete Construction** 

L R Case-Harmon & Co CPA, LLC

LandRock

Local Investment Commission (LINC)

**Marie A Hudson Farmers Insurance Agency** 

**Martin Underground** 

McBee's Coffee N Carwash 24 Hwy

Metro Ford

**Mobility First Inc.** 

Mum's Here

**Nature Med** 

North Point Boiler & Combustion

Omega Door

Park University

**Phillips Paving** 

POAH Preservation of Affordable Housing

**Pollard Orf and Associates** 

**Preferred Asphalt & Concrete** 

Quicksilver

**Red Equipment LLC** 

**Regents Flooring** 

RG Capital Partners, LLC

**Rouse Frets White Goss Gentile Rhodes** 

**Royal Lawn Service** 

Salvus TG

**SBD Housing Solutions** 

**Scott Davidson Ins Agency INC** 

ShowMe Pension Group, Inc.

**Small Biz Social** 

**Songow Consulting, LLC** 

**Spectrum Paint** 

St. Mark's United Methodist

Stella's Clean Vines, Clean-Crafted Wine (TM)

**Summit Pizza** 

The Horn Law Firm. P.C.

The Law Office of Daniel S Hobart

**Thrift World** 

TIREY J FORD POST # 21 OF THE AMERICAN LEGION Speaks Chapels LLC- Suburban Chapel

**United Way of Greater Kansas City** 

Worlds of Fun

**Xact Tax Services LLC** 

#### 5-14 Years - October-December 2023

**All Star Pictures** 

Allis Chalmers Industrial Park

**Blair's Foster Socks** 

Charlie's Car Wash

**Community Blood Center** 

**Courthouse Exchange Restaurant & Lounge** 

**Edward Jones, Adam Kliethermes** 

**Edward Jones, Chris Thiele** 

El Pico Mexican Restaurant

**Englewood Business Association** First Federal Bank of Kansas City

**Hap Graff** 

**Highway 7 Chiropractic** 

**Hope House** 

Hy-Vee Food & Drug Store 23rd St

1360 Insurance, LLC

**Independence Family Eye Care** 

**Jim Carter Truck Parts** 

**Kansas City Comets** 

**Kansas City Mavericks Pro Hockey** 

**Kelly Freeland** 

**Kim Connects KC Home Team** 

**KJ Remodeling LLC** 

**Lotus Key Homes LLC** 

**Main Event Entertainment** 

**Main Street Coffee House** 

Mauer Law Firm

Mother's Refuge

**MVP Awards and Engraving** 

**Mv Place Hotel** 

**New Diamond Bowl** 

**Newmark Grubb Zimmer** 

**Phoenix Home Care & Hospice** 

**RE/MAX Elite, REALTORS - T. David Rogers** 

Servpro of Lee's Summit, Raytown, East Kansas City

Smoothie Kina- Bolaer Rd.

St. Michael the Archangel Catholic High School

State Farm Insurance, Chad Mitchell Synago LLC

The Arc of the Ozarks

**Twin Peaks** 

**University Health Community Care Fairmount** 

Wild About Harry Men's Accessories & Furnishings

#### 15-24 Years - October-December 2023

**AAA Disposal Service BeHereNow BerganKDV Cafe Verona** Children's Mercy Clinton's Soda Fountain **Gilbert Whitney & Co Hereford House Restaurant** 

Hilburn Trucking Inc.

Independence School District Foundation **Independence Square Association** Kansas City Public Library -Trails West Branch

Ophelia's Restaurant & Inn Rand Construction Co.

Studio on Main

Square Pizza State Farm Insurance, Stacey Schell Newland Cheers for Success to all!

#### 25-39 Years - October-December 2023

1st MidAmerica Credit Union Auto Color & Equipment Inc. **Balanced Body Chiropractic Center PC Bank of Grain Valley** Cargo Largo Columbia College **Downey Construction Inc.** Fort Osage R-I School District Gallagher Insurance & Risk Management Glenn's Tire & Automotive Inc Greg's Lock & Key Service Inc. Harry S. Truman Library & Museum Independence Housing Authority Independence Womens Clinic Junior Service League of Independence McDaniel Furnace & Sheet Metal Inc. Midwest Machine Co. Inc. **Recognition Plus Red Carpet Service** Rotary Club of Independence Silverstein Eye Centers PC **Smokehouse Barbecue** The Fountains at Greenbrian V's Italiano Ri<mark>st</mark>orante

#### 40 Plus Years - October-December 2023

Blue Ridge Bank and Trust Co
Cornell Roofing & Sheet Metal Co.
L & C Meat Inc.
Ted's Trash Service Inc.
The Groves
Scott King, Attorney
Comcast
City of Independence
City of Independence Fire Dept.
City of Independence Power & Light

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.



#### July-September 2023

B&B Theatres Twin Drive-In
Dynamic Construction Group LLC
Foxtail Dumpsters LLC
GI Junk Removal
InReach Physical Therapy
MyWholeheartedTherapy
Nichole's Neighbors
paraMi LLC
Tammi Sue's, LLC
TC Enterprise LLC
The Mystery Hour

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

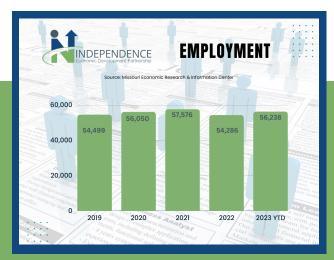


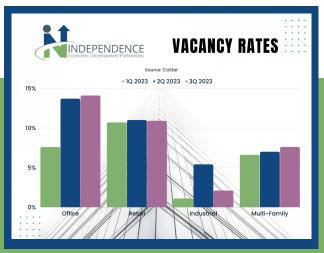


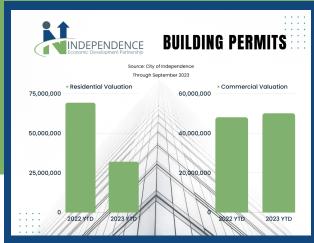


Visit the NEW IEDP page on the Chamber's website

ichamber.biz/iedp









#### INPACT AWARDS



**GVC Chiropractic of Independence** 



paraMi



**Summit Pizza Independence** 

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INQUIRIES CONTACT** 

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

**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:

Kelly Anders, J.D., M.L.S. Harry S Truman Library

Independence School District

Dr. Robert Jerome

Blue Springs School District

**Sue Gochis** 

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.

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

Evans & Steele Financial, L.L.C.

Dr. Matthew Tinnel

University Health Lakewood Dental Services

The Trevor Tilton Farmers Agency

**Laurie Dean Wiley** 

Financial Advisor - Hoot Owl Financial

Susan Wrav

Mid-Continent Public Library

Jonathan Zerr, J.D.

Kapke & Willerth, L.L.C.

### Chamber Team:

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

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

**OUR BUSINESS IS BUSINESS** 

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



**GET INVOLVED BY** SPONSORING A ROOM!

If your business is interested in sponsoring a room for this event contact Jodi Krantz - jodi@ichamber.biz -OR-Mara Bradford - mara@ichamber.biz to sign up.

HOSTED BY









THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM INDEPENDENCE CHAMBER 210 W. TRUMAN RD.



# Leudership Quote of the Quarter

"There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure."

~ Colin Powell ~



**OUR BUSINESS IS BUSINESS** 

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

# Caught on Campo





Friday, December 1st | 11:30 AM-1:00PM Carrabba's Italian Grill