94th Annual Awards Banquet

Saturday, January 31, 2015
Arrowhead Stadium North Club
Reception 6:00 PM
Dinner & Program 7:00 PM

Last year’s Awards Banquet was a lively night with much local recognition (photos below). This year, on Saturday, January 31, we will gather for another exciting evening of entrepreneurial celebration, honoree recognition (right) and mingling.

Tickets and sponsorships for the 94th Annual Awards Banquet are still available. To reserve seats or a table at this event, please contact Lois with the Chamber at 816-252-4745 (ext. 3) lois@ichamber.biz or register via the Chamber website, ichamber.biz.
94th Annual Awards Banquet

The 94th Annual Awards Banquet will be held this year at the Arrowhead Stadium North Club. The evening will begin with a reception at 6:00 p.m. followed by dinner and the presentation of the 2014 Awards. Approximately 500 attendees from business, government, and the non-profit sectors are expected to join with the Independence Chamber of Commerce to honor and celebrate the 2014 award recipients.

Sponsored by:

UMB

2015 LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING SCHEDULE

All Legislative Briefings after January will be held on the third Friday of the month at the Free Enterprise Center, 210 West Truman Road. Legislative Briefings will not be held during August, November, or December.

February, March, April, and May will focus on State Legislative Issues while the general assembly is in session.

June and July will focus on Federal Issues and have presentations from senior staffers from both US Senators and both Congressmen.

September will focus on city issues with the Independence City Council.

October will include a discussion of county priorities with the Jackson County Legislators.

At 8:00 am, a hot breakfast buffet will be offered prior to the start of the program featuring almost all of the local delegation to the Missouri General Assembly. The state senators and state representatives in attendance will share their thoughts and hopes for the annual legislative session that begins the following week as well as offer some insights into which issues will likely dominate the next five months of legislative debate. Additionally, the assembled elected officials will also address how they can individually and collectively assist the Chamber and the local business community in advancing the identified “high” priority items needing state legislative action during 2015. If time permits, the state legislators will also field questions from the audience.

This is a combined effort of the Independence Chamber of Commerce and the Independence Economic Development Council. Both memberships from the two organizations have been invited to attend. Registration is required and can be accomplished through the Chamber website, ichamber.biz.

To view the 2015 Legislative Agenda for the Independence Chamber of Commerce, visit: ichamber.biz.

Tuesday, January 6, 2015
8:00 AM - 9:30 AM
Ennovation Center
201 S. Forest Avenue
Independence, Missouri

Legislative Session preview for the business leadership in Independence and Eastern Jackson County
**INDEPENDENCE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

**94TH ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET**

**ARROWHEAD STADIUM NORTH CLUB**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2015, 6PM-10PM**

The 94th Annual Awards Banquet will be held Saturday, January 31, 2015 from 6pm until 10pm at the Arrowhead Stadium Club. The black-tie optional event will feature a social hour, dinner, and recognition of leaders of Eastern Jackson County. A Legacy of Leadership award will be presented to Shirley Baker. Nina Anders is recognized as the Business Person of the Year and Kelly Lightfoot is the recipient of the Rising Star award.

Sponsorship opportunities for this exclusive and memorable event are currently available.

**PRESENTING SPONSOR (1 at $10,000)**

- A table (for 8) at the Annual Awards Banquet
- Reserved parking at the Arrowhead Stadium Club
- Recognition of the company as the sole presenting sponsor at opening and closing of the event
- Signage at table
- Prominent presence of company logo in the event program
- Prominent logo inclusion on the video shown during the social hour prior to the dinner
- Company logo on all pre and post event publicity materials (i.e. press release, newsletter articles, social media, etc.)
- Company logo and website link on the Chamber website for one month prior to the event
- An opportunity for a senior representative of the company to speak at the beginning of the event and to assist in the presentation of the three awards
- Exclusivity as the top sponsorship for the event

**RECEPTION SPONSOR (2 at $5000 each)**

- A table (for 8) at the Annual Awards Banquet
- Reserved parking at the Arrowhead Stadium Club
- Signage at table
- Company logo in the event program
- Prominent logo inclusion on the video shown during the social hour prior to the dinner
- Signage (with company name and logo) at the reception preceding the dinner
- Recognition from the podium during the event
- Company logo on all pre and post event publicity materials (i.e. press release, newsletter articles, social media, etc.)
- Company logo and website link on the Chamber website for one month prior to the event
- An opportunity for a senior representative of the company to speak at the reception
- Exclusivity as the top sponsorship for the reception

**GOLD SPONSORS (8 at $2500 each)**

- Seating for 8 at the Annual Awards Banquet
- Inclusion of the company logo in the event program
- Company logo and website link on the Chamber website section describing the event for one month prior to the event
- Company logo in the event program
- Prominent logo inclusion on the video shown during the social hour prior to the dinner
- Signage (with company name and logo) at the reception preceding the dinner
- Recognition from the podium during the event
- Company logo on all pre and post event publicity materials (i.e. press release, newsletter articles, social media, etc.)
- Company logo and website link on the Chamber website for one month prior to the event
- An opportunity for a senior representative of the company to speak at the reception
- Exclusivity as the top sponsorship for the reception

**DESSERT STATION SPONSORS (3 at $1250 each)**

- Inclusion of the company name in the event program
- Company logo and website link on the Chamber website section describing the event
- Signage (company name & logo) at desert station
- Ability to serve as host or hostess for desert stations
- Recognition from the podium during the event

**TABLE SPONSORS (30 at $1000 each)**

- Seating for 8 at the event
- Signage at table
- Inclusion of company name in the event program
- Company logo and website link on the Chamber website section describing the event

**To take advantage of one of the noted sponsorship opportunities, please contact Lois McDonald at lois@iChamber.biz or 816-252-4745 ext 2**
Greetings...

Back in 1992, I spoke at the 71st Independence Chamber Annual Banquet. We had a big crowd and a wonderful evening as I handed the gavel over to Wayne Brusewitz from the Space Center as the next Chairman of the Board.

I do remember that night 23 years ago. I brought to the podium information on condos for sale in Florida. As I was speaking, I offered the brochures to Allen Lefko and encouraged Allen to wrap up his banking career, retire and move to Florida. He chuckled, the crowd laughed, and he didn’t retire. And, a good thing too. We called him last week from the Chamber, and he renewed his Chamber of Commerce membership for 2015. Allen has always been a friend and strong supporter of all things Independence.

As we get ready for the 94th Annual Awards dinner on January 31st, it does strike me how far Independence has come. And, what unbelievable opportunities each of us has to engage in our future.

23 years ago, we had two hospitals. They are both now gone and we are fortunate to have a new state of the art hospital, Centerpoint Medical Center. Not far from there is the Little Blue Expressway. It was talked about for years, but when it opened with an on and off I-70 ramp, all of a sudden the area surrounding Little Blue and I-70 became the hottest business corridor in Independence. There was no Independence Events Center. In fact, no one in 1992 even thought about an Events Center. And, who in their right minds would have ever guessed that ISD could and would annex the Van Horn School District. Just amazing.

So, much has changed for the better that we sometimes lose sight of what we have accomplished. Once the Walmart Neighborhood Market opened at Noland and 35th Street, we “high 5” and move on. We forget there was a dying shopping center there. Actually declining since Jerry’s US Super moved out. Jerry Fisher was a neat man. When he retired and closed his grocery store, that shopping center started a 20-year decline. Thanks to Walmart, that is now a productive and helpful corner for all of us.

There is so much more to do.

And, we can all have a role in it.

I invite you to see where you can engage and help make Independence better.

A caring community serves meals to homeless folks at the Stone Church and works on solutions for the roughly 150 school age kids that are truly homeless in Independence. Would you be surprised to know that we have tent communities here??

The Noland Road Community Development District and beautification project can use bright and visionary minds. A more beautiful gateway to our City invites revenue and helps all of us.

Solar energy is being considered to help power our City. Follow the study and the information and maybe, your business will decide to use solar power too. Exciting.

And, the Academies of ISD, will allow businesses and the Independence School District to work together to shape the minds and skills of students in the Independence School District. You can help.

An All American City does those types of things. And, we are an All American City … we have been nationally recognized twice, if I recall.

So, what opportunity are you going to engage in for 2015? Your City and your Chamber welcome you.

Much happiness and success to you in 2015...

Cheers,

Hap

PS: Just a quick update on Tabitha’s Closet. It appears that they have two suitors. Hopefully next month, we will have the rest of the story on where the program that provides new underwear, shoes and clothing for 2,000 ISD kids has moved. Many thanks to Norma Tibbett’s for starting and leading this 10-year program.
For 16 years Independence business owners, city officials and community members have sought to reinvigorate the Noland Road Corridor. In 2011, the City of Independence and the Noland Road merchants began crafting a plan for a special taxing district on Noland Road that would help fund capital improvements and renovation investments for properties considered blight along the corridor. On December 16th, the formation petition of this special district, a Community Improvement District (CID), was approved by the Independence City Council.

The Noland Road CID encompasses 362 acres of land and 4.1 miles of total roadway. Its boundaries extend from 40 Hwy to 23rd street and include the Noland Road Right of Way North of 23rd Street to Truman Road.

While Noland Road is a vibrant business community with unique and diverse businesses, the aging nature of the corridor has begun to show in the buildings, sites and overall aesthetics of the area. The proliferation of signs, driveway cuts, and overall lack of a cohesive ‘good’ feeling in the corridor detracts from the overall quality of the corridor. The Noland Road CID is intended to solve these issues and help put Noland Road back in the spotlight as the historic gateway corridor into Independence.

According to City Manager, Robert Heacock,

“This project will transform the future of Noland Road by building off the strong existing base of businesses and creating new investment opportunities. It is gratifying to be a part of something unique and creative that required such a high level of cooperation and dedication between area business owners, the City, and our local Chamber.”

The potential success of the Noland Road CID is encouraging based on the new businesses opening and redevelopment occurring in high visibility locations. A reinvigorated and redeveloped Noland Road represents a real opportunity to showcase the unique shopping, dining, service, and business environment along Noland Road and Independence.

City of Independence Mayor Weir says,

“Citizens continue to identify Noland Road as a vital commercial corridor that is essential to redevelopment of Western Independence. This demonstrates the long-term commitment to Noland Road by business and property owners to execute a major revitalization plan. The City Council unanimously supports the Noland Road CID and the positive impacts it will have on our city.”

Congratulations to City Manager Robert Heacock and the Noland Road Merchants who have worked hard to make the Noland Road CID a reality.
Seven Chambers of Commerce in Eastern Jackson County will collaborate this year to bring together some of the brightest business leaders from the most dynamic companies in Eastern Jackson County. The 2015 Eastern Jackson County Business Expo will provide targeted opportunities for more than 100 of the finest and most successful businesses in the area to showcase, demonstrate, and explain their products and/or services to other successful business decision-makers and their best clients or customers.

The 2015 Eastern Jackson County Business Expo will be held at the Independence Events Center from 2:00pm to 7:00pm on Thursday, April 23, 2015. The day will kick-off with the Monthly Membership Luncheon at 12:30pm and a speaker with those attending then having an opportunity to walk through the expo afterwards. The event will feature dozens of product or service demonstrations, door prizes and raffles by the exhibiting businesses. Complimentary beverage service and hors d’oeuvres will begin at 4:00pm and continue until the Expo wraps up at 7:00pm.

Companies with booths will enjoy an environment that enhances their relationships, exposes their business to qualified attendees, gives them an opportunity to research the market for the leading products and services, and learn about the latest and best business practices.

All potential exhibitors must be members in good standing from one of the following Chambers of Commerce: Blue Springs, Grain Valley, Grandview, Independence, Lee’s Summit, Raytown, or South Kansas City. For businesses wishing to participate or secure more information about the event, contact Alex at 816-252-4745 or alex@ichamber.biz.

Why should a business exhibit at the 2015 Eastern Jackson County Business Expo?

1. Network with hundreds of potential new customers and business decision makers
2. Showcase their company in a unique business environment
3. Touch base with established customers to talk about new products, renew relationships and thank them for their business
4. Save countless sales calls by face-to-face selling and demonstrations
Wyatt Violin Shop

We pride ourselves in serving the community by providing sales of fine instruments, expert repair and artistic restoration, a quality rental program, and lessons on all stringed instruments. Our focus at the Wyatt Violin Shop is on promoting the enjoyment of music and servicing the needs of music lovers in our community. Our goal is to provide quality repair and adjustment as well as offering new and reconditioned instruments for students and professionals alike.

The Wyatt Violin Shop is the largest purveyor of bowed stringed instruments in the Kansas City Area. Some of our clients are members of symphonies, touring musicians, collectors, schools and organizations, and students of all levels and abilities. Our inventory includes thousands of instruments and bows ranging in price from $100 to $50,000. Our student instruments are the highest quality at the best value and our fine instrument collection includes what we feel are the finest examples of the makers they represent.

Why is your business located in Independence?
Independence is our home and we take pride in the community. When we started the business we wanted to stay in the area and looked at the Independence area as a perfect place to start a Violin Shop.

Why is your business involved with the Chamber?
We believe in supporting the community and see the Chamber as a great way to enhance networking with other business owners with similar goals.

In your opinion, what is Independence greatest asset?
As part of the Kansas City Metropolitan area, we believe Independence is perfectly located to provide our services to customers in Independence as well as customers from other areas. The community is well connected with roads that make our central location easy to access from all directions.

In addition to location we believe the local government and residents support businesses and the area is poised to continue to grow.

Lake City Business Center

LEASE SPACE AVAILABLE
Highway 7 and 78
Contact: Jack Figg, Director Commercial Development & Community Affairs
816-796-5220 or jack.figg@atk.com
www.LCAAP.com

Proud Operator of the Lake City Army Ammunition Plant
2015 Eggs & Issues  
Tuesday, January 6th, 8:00 - 9:30 am  
Ennovation Center, 201 North Forest Avenue

Presented jointly by the Independence Chamber of Commerce and the Independence Economic Development Council. A hot breakfast will be ready and the program will start at 8:00 am.

**Topic:** Overviews and projections for the upcoming 2015 Legislative Session from the perspective of the local State Senators and State Representatives in the Missouri General Assembly.

**Cost:** $15.00 per person. *Reservations required: iChamber.biz.*

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**Business Leads Exchange**  
Thursday, January 8th, 8:00 - 9:00 am  
Chamber Boardroom, 210 West Truman Road

The monthly Business Leads Exchange is designed to facilitate focused networking and small group discussion about a relevant and timely business topic. *For more information and to register for this event, visit: iChamber.biz.*

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**Less Investment, More Money Workshops** (formerly Tech-Connect Tuesday)  
Tuesday, January 13th, 8:00 - 9:00am  
Chamber Boardroom, 210 West Truman Road

Stop spending so much time on the little things so you can focus on your business. This month’s workshop will focus completely on getting you familiar with specific tools your business can use for free that are made to streamline basic administrative processes and increase productivity.

Additionally, Less Investment, More Money Workshops can be streamed live to members that have previously attended in person that prefer to watch from their offices or businesses through a customized Google Community created just for Independence Chamber of Commerce members.

**Topic:** Free Tools that Equal More Productivity  
**Cost:** Free for Members. $15 for non-members. *For more information and to register for this event, visit: iChamber.biz.*

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**Annual Membership Meeting Luncheon**  
Wednesday, January 21st, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm  
Ophelia’s Restaurant

The membership of the Independence Chamber of Commerce will meet for its annual business meeting on Wednesday, January 21, 2015 from 12:00 am to 1:00 p.m. The 2014 Chairwoman of the Board, Cindy McClain and 2015 Chairman of the Board, Brad Speaks, will both address the membership. Retiring board members and 2014 Committee Chairpersons will also be recognized during the event.

**Cost:** $23 for members. $35 for non-members. *Reservations required: iChamber.biz.*

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**94Th Annual Awards Banquet**  
Saturday, January 31, 2015  
Arrowhead Stadium North Club, Reception 6:00 PM, Dinner & Program 7:00 PM

The business community in Independence and Eastern Jackson County will gather to honor and celebrate three individuals whose contributions have been exceptionally noteworthy. The evening will begin with a reception at 6:00 p.m. followed by dinner and the presentation of the 2014 Awards. Approximately 500 attendees from business, government, and the non-profit sectors are expected to join with the Independence Chamber of Commerce to honor and celebrate the 2014 award recipients.

*Tickets and sponsorships for the Business Leadership Awards Dinner are still available. To reserve seats or a table at this event, please contact Lois with the Chamber at 816-252-4745 (ext. 3) lois@ichamber.biz or register via the Chamber website, ichamber.biz.*
Every member business or organization of the Independence Chamber is encouraged to join one or more of the Chamber’s standing committees and/or subcommittees. Membership on the six standing committees and the six subcommittees is open only to current Chamber members in good standing. Chamber members can be represented by an owner, manager, or other full-time employee of the member business. Multiple representatives from the same company can serve on multiple committees.

As all committee appointments are only for the calendar year in which the appointment was made, all members will need to complete the 2015 Committee Volunteer Form in order to be appointed by the Chamber Chairman for 2015. Current Committee Volunteers wishing to stay on their current committees may email Kelo at kelo@iChamber.biz if they would like to be reappointed at the next meeting of the Chamber Board of Directors. With more than 120 member businesses being represented on one or more of the Chamber Committees during 2014 this remains a worthwhile way to get to know other business leaders better while at the same time helping to script the direction and priorities of the Chamber and the greater business community.

Most committees meet monthly while many subcommittees only meet regularly during certain times of the year.

To obtain a 2015 Committee Volunteer Form, contact the Chamber office at 816-252-4745 or kelo@iChamber.biz.

NEW BOARD CHAIRMAN

Brad Speaks, President and CEO, Speaks Family Legacy Chapels

In addition to running three funeral homes in the Independence area, Brad is active in the Chamber and has been on the board for a number of years. He has served on the Executive Committee for the past two years and chaired the Marketing Committee. Brad is on the Kansas City Advisory Board for UMB, and has served on several other local boards. He is a Rotarian and a former pastor. Brad is currently the President of Selected Independent Funeral Homes, a national association of privately-owned funeral homes. He is a graduate of Graceland University with a double major in History and Political Science. Brad is married to Mary Kay and they have one daughter, Ciera Speaks.
What is one thing you are currently doing in your business that you want others to know?
As much as Costco has expanded and evolved over the years, it is still driven by the same entrepreneurial spirit and holds tenaciously to the strong culture and dedication to excellence that has always been the hallmark of its success.

Why is our business involved in the Chamber?
Costco Wholesale uses the Chambers as a marketing tool. We do not advertise, so being involved in our local Chamber helps get the word out!

A little history on how and when we started business...
The very first membership warehouse club opened in San Diego, California, on July 12, 1976. Called The Price Club, after its founder Sol Price, it was a groundbreaking concept based on the premise of using buying and operating efficiencies to keep costs down and then passing the savings on to members. Innovative and visionary, Sol was already a retail legend, having developed the successful Fed-Mart business in the late 1960s. One of his top merchants at Fed-Mart was Jim Sinegal, who served as executive vice president of merchandising, distribution and marketing. Price Club was initially open only to business owners, and its early merchandise offerings emphasized wholesale items and included office supplies, cigarettes, candy, health and beauty aids, small and major appliances, electronics, hardware, automotive, foods and sundries, photo processing, cameras and film, and restaurant, institutional and janitorial supplies. While business started slowly, as the Price Club team fine-tuned their merchandise and marketing strategies, it soon began to build, giving birth to a new industry that would change the face of retailing all over the world. Costco Wholesale was founded seven years later and opened its first warehouse in Seattle, Washington on September 15, 1983. Jeff Brotman, chairman of the board, and Jim Sinegal, president and CEO, are considered by many to be the most innovative and talented retailing team in the world today. For 10 years each company grew, expanding their business and their product mix and pioneering new services. The two mega-retailers merged in 1993, bringing together two incredibly gifted staffs to form the unbeatable team that soon made Costco the world’s category-dominant warehouse club operator. Their passion for excellence and commitment to bring high-quality goods and services to market at the lowest possible prices created a cult-like following for the company, with millions of loyal members around the globe.

RIBBON CUTTING

Key participants cut the ribbon for the refurbished 20mm production facility at the Lake City Ammunition Plant, Dec. 2. Left to right: Debbie Hookway, Project Director, Joint Services office, ARMS Team Manager; Col. Moises Gutierrez, Project Manager, Maneuver Ammunition Systems; William Sanville, Deputy Project Manager, Maneuver Ammunition Systems; Lt. Col. Shane Upton, Lake City Army Ammunition Plant commander; Kent Holiday, Vice President and General Manager, ATK Small Caliber Systems; Bob Schmitz, ATK Director Ammunition Segment; Chris Grassano, chief of staff, Program Executive Office, Ammunition; Mike Kahn, President, ATK Defense Group and Jack Figg, ATK Director for Commercial Development and Community Affairs and LCAAP ARMS program manager.
In 2013, the Independence Chamber of Commerce coordinated with the business community and the Independence School District to take on a partnership with the Ford Foundation’s Next Generation Learning program. The school district has named this program “The Academies of ISD”.

The goals of The Academies of ISD revolve around workforce development and college preparation. Our high school students have many diverse interests and skill sets, and this program will give those heading straight into the workforce skills that will allow them to obtain their first job. For those moving on to college, the program offers the opportunity to earn as much as two years of college credit while in high school.

With a higher skilled workforce graduating each year, local companies and those businesses considering moving here will have exceptionally well prepared candidates to choose from. With students entering college as a sophomore or junior, it allows the student to choose upper level classes in the areas they want to study, and shortens the college process by up to 2 years.

The Academies of ISD evaluation process included months of meetings with educators, business leaders, and invested community members collaborating on the ultimate goal of assuring that Independence students were prepared to meet the current and future needs of business and industry. Educators “externed” in area businesses. Business leaders discussed baseline requirements of future employees.

Three teams worked on creating a comprehensive model unique to Independence.

One team studied teaching and learning. A second team studied the secondary school experience and the third studied business and civic engagement.

To further understand the program first hand, the team visited the Nashville School District. The results there were impressive and the group came back and recommended that The Academies of ISD get started as soon as possible. And, thus, the program a full year ahead of schedule, started in August of 2014 with a Freshman Academy as the school year began.

Career academies are defined as multi-year curriculums implemented to develop specific skills useable in specific industries. Students will be supported by educators throughout their high school experience within these academies. In September 2015 the Independence School District will kick off its first two Academies, Computer Science and Industrial Technology. Those will be followed in 2016 with three more Academies – Health and Public Services, Business, and Arts and Education. Each Academy will have multiple pathways giving students a wide variety of choices.

The Chamber of Commerce will continue its’ role in facilitating the communication between leaders of business and education. Career academies will offer students a chance to work directly with companies giving them a head start on their career, and in return partner companies will have a chance to mold future employees. As a result of The Academies of ISD, Independence schools will offer bright futures for our children and a more skilled work force for business.

Major kudos to the Independence School District, community leaders and committed business partners for their successful launch of “The Academies of ISD”.

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**CENTERPOINT MEDICAL CENTER**

19600 East 39th Street, Independence, MO 64057

(816) 698-7000 • CenterpointMedical.com

Visit KCFastER.com for information on Centerpoint ER wait times
Developing Potential serves individuals having developmental disabilities through on-site day programs as well as programs in the community. Our individuals access and make outstanding contributions to their communities through our Community Integration and our Community Employment programs. We encourage the support of the community through community service with our organization, in-kind and cash donations, and through participation in our Community Integration and Community Employment programs. For more information on ways to get involved with DPI, individuals may contact Amy Cox at acox@developingpotential.org.

Mission statement?
To provide quality day habilitation services to adults with developmental disabilities and support those individuals to reach their potential and achieve a dignified, adult lifestyle. DPI is a holistic program that focuses on Body, Mind, and Spirit of the individuals we support seeking to build strengths, foster independence, and be a vehicle for changing lives.

Why is your organization involved in the Chamber?
We are involved with the chamber because we have a strong commitment to the communities we serve. The chamber gives us an opportunity to be informed of and involved with businesses and activities that strengthen the Independence community as well as provides an opportunity to share information about our services with others.

What is the greatest asset in Independence?
We are fortunate to be a part of the Independence Square and to have a number of wonderful businesses to work with very close to our location. We love all the activities that the individuals we serve can access in our community.

What is your organization’s greatest accomplishment of the last year?
Last year, we were able to acquire a building for services in Lee’s Summit.

What are you planning for 2015 to advance your mission further?
We plan to continue to work to alleviate our wait list for services of nearly 70 individuals and continue to strengthen our ties in the community through involvement. Additionally, we will be continuing to advocate for the individuals we serve through legislative and other means.

Leadership:
Rebecca Case, Executive Director
Kari Wiss, Director of Operations
Lori Oxborough, Program Director
Mary Theis, Administrative Director
Amy Cox, Outreach & Development Director

Locations:
120 W. Walnut, Independence
1608 Prospect Ave., Kansas City
251 NW Executive Way, Lee’s Summit

Years in existence: 21
Years as a Chamber Member: 13

Community News

Live Music at Main Street Coffee House every Friday and Saturday from 7:00 - 9:00 pm. Visit mstreetcoffeehouse.com for more details.

3rd Friday Art Walk at the Englewood Station Arts District from 5:30 to 9 pm, includes a rotating collection of over four dozen local and regional artists displaying their creativity and are regularly on-site for meet and greet. Visit englewoodstation.com for more information.

Visit the Courthouse Exchange Event Space from 9:00 am to noon for Esty at the Exchange. Every second Saturday of the month check out the Exchange Event Space for a fun, free event featuring over a dozen Esty shops – all under one roof.

Holiday Learn to Skate Camp: The Centerpoint Community Ice Rink will be hosting a 3 Day Camp (30 minute sessions). Skate rental plus 5 free public skate passes for just $40! Call 816.442.6128 for more info.

113 W Lexington Ave.
Join the Chamber and over a dozen public organizations and large private employers in Eastern Jackson County at Four Points by Sheraton, at 4011 Blue Ridge Cut-Off, Kansas City, MO 64133, on Friday, February 13th, from 8:30am to 3:30pm to learn how to become a qualified or approved vendor capable of selling goods and/or services to them.

This match-making event will begin with a continental breakfast at 8:30am. Beginning at 9:00am, small business owners will break into small groups to meet with many of the procurement officers from the large companies represented. The intent of these appointments is to provide small business owners insight and direction into the specific steps they should take to be qualified to do business with the larger companies.

At noon, lunch will be provided while Shelly Cunningham, Director of the Missouri Procurement Technical Assistance Center (MO PTAC) at the University of Missouri Kansas City, presents on the changing procurement procedures used by public organizations.

After the luncheon presentation, the small business owners/managers will then have an opportunity to meet in small groups with chosen procurement officers from public organizations represented.

Appointments can be made prior to Business Development Day beginning on February 1st, 2015. Alex Colley will email all participants with the list of confirmed entities to sign up. Conversations will be scheduled in 20 minute intervals so each organization will have the opportunity to meet with as many small business owners as possible. Appointments will be made on a first-come-first serve basis. Any appointments still available the day of the event will be posted at check-in for sign up.

A list of the larger private employers from Eastern Jackson County participating in the match-making event will be posted on the Business Development Day event page of the Independence Chamber of Commerce website, iChamber.biz, prior to the event.

Cost: $50 for members, $100 for non-members. For further information, or to register for Business Development Day 2015 visit iChamber.biz, or contact alex@iChamber.biz, or 816-252-4745.
The petition to establish the Noland Road Community Improvement District (CID), which encompasses businesses along Noland Road from U.S. 40 north to 23rd Street, was unanimously approved by the Independence City Council on Monday, December 15, 2015.

A Little BBQ Joint was voted one of the Top 10 Best Barbecue joints in Kansas City by Sun Times.

The City of Independence’s Roger T. Sermon Community Center has finished renovations to its weight room, locker room and circuit training area. The updated weight room includes brand new equipment including a Cable Crossover, Leg Press, Chest Press and Dumbbells.

Officer Brock E. Kelley, of the Independence Police Department, received the Missouri Medal of Valor from Gov. Jay Nixon, after an on-foot pursuit of a suspect allegedly stealing items from guests at the Econo Lodge on 42nd Terrace. The suspect shot a total of 13 shots at the officers before Officer Kelley was able to return fire and subdue the gunman.

Lake City Army Ammunition Plant (LCAAP) received the WEF Industrial Water Quality Achievement award this year. This award is awarded to companies that best demonstrate significant, lasting, and measurable excellence in water quality improvement or in the prevention of water quality degradation as demonstrated by innovative design and operation of an industrial wastewater, pretreatment or source prevention program.

ATK Small Caliber Systems raised more than $90,000 for United Way with a participation rate of 35% this fall. Fundraisers that were held included an Ice Bucket Challenge, Golf Tournament and employee pledges.

The City Council of Independence approved the contract for the SantaCaliGon Days Festival on December 15th, 2014. Be on the lookout for sponsorship opportunities for the festival in 2015.

This page features member news each month. To have your news listed here, contact Alex at alex@ichamber.biz.

Advertise in The Chamber View!
Fill a space like this. Monthly, quarterly, and annual rates are available.

For more information, contact Alex Colley at alex@ichamber.biz.
Recently, four positions on the Board of Directors for the Independence Chamber of Commerce became open. At the November and December meetings of the Board of Directors, 2014 Chairman of the Board, Cindy McClain, nominated Karen Cox, with Children’s Mercy Hospital, Jon Ellis with Paradise Park, Ron Finke with Stewardship Capital, and Doug Williams with Wells Fargo Advisors to fill the four vacancies on the board. After confirmation and election by the full board, all four were appointed with effective date of January 1, 2015.

Karen Cox, RN, PhD, NEA-BC, FAAN, Children’s Mercy – Kansas City
Dr. Karen Cox is the Executive Vice President and Co-Chief Operating Officer for Children’s Mercy – Kansas City. She also serves as Assistant Dean for Clinical Partnerships at the University of Missouri–Kansas City (UMKC). Dr. Cox started her nursing career as a licensed practical nurse. Subsequent degrees include an Associate Degree in Nursing from Excelsior College, a BSN from the University of Kansas, and a MSN from the University of Missouri–Kansas City. In 2002 she completed a PhD in Nursing with a minor in business from the University of Missouri–Kansas City. Her dissertation studied the work environment needs of inpatient registered nurses.

Dr. Cox and her husband, Randy Gould, live in Kansas City, Missouri.

Doug Williams, Vice President-Investment Officer, Accredited Asset Management Specialist SM, Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC
With more than ten years’ experience as a Financial Advisor, Doug is dedicated to helping his clients meet their financial needs. His work with varying clients has a focus on business and family relationships. Doug feels very strongly about educating his clients on their assets, markets and different types of investments.

He began his career with A.G. Edwards, a predecessor firm to Wells Fargo Advisors in 2001. Doug graduated from the University of Missouri - Kansas City with a Bachelor of Liberal Arts in 1997. He continued to expand his education and knowledge to help educate his clients and assist them in pursuing their financial goals. Away from the office, Doug is an active Board Member of the Independence Chamber of Commerce. He and his wife Maria have four children.

Jon Ellis, President and Chief Executive Officer, Paradise Park, Inc.
He graduated from Iowa State University, majoring in agricultural education and received his master’s degree from the University of Missouri in professional agricultural vocational technical education. Since becoming CEO of Paradise Park, Inc. in 1991, Jon has guided expansion efforts at the park to include additional activities, a Family Entertainment Center and a professionally designed Children’s Discovery Play Center.

Jon is currently President of the Lee’s Summit Medical Center board of trustees as well as serving on the board of trustees at Centerpoint Medical Center and John Knox Village Foundation. Jon is Immediate Past President of the Breakfast Optimists Club and President of the Lee’s Summit Lacrosse Foundation.

He has also served on numerous boards and organizations around the community including the Citizens Leadership Academy, Powell Gardens, Lee’s Summit Economic Development Council, Lee’s Summit Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, the School of Economics, and the Greater Lee’s Summit Youth Lacrosse Association.

Jon and his wife, Juli, have lived in Lee’s Summit, Missouri, since 1986 and have two boys.

Ron Finke President, Chief Investment Officer, Stewardship Capital
Ron grew up here, graduating from Truman High School, Stanford University, and Vanderbilt University, returning here to practice law. He has been a Chamber member continuously since 1978. He left law practice in 1980 and has engaged in financial services since 1982. He received Chartered Life Underwriter and Financial Consultant designations from the American College, Bryn Mawr, PA. Ron founded Stewardship Capital in late 1997 as a Registered Investment Adviser to manage client investment assets as a fiduciary. The firm now manages almost $80 million and serves a broad range of individual, business, trust and retirement plan clients.

Finke has served the community with the Independence School District and the Rotary Club of Independence. He serves on the Board of the Truman Heartland Community Foundation and is active in Noland Road Baptist Church. Ron and Karen have been married for 40 years, have three children, 6 grandchildren and oftentimes several foster grandchildren.

Karen Cox, RN, PhD, NEA-BC, FAAN, Children’s Mercy – Kansas City

Doug Williams, Vice President-Investment Officer, Accredited Asset Management Specialist SM, Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC

Jon Ellis, President and Chief Executive Officer, Paradise Park, Inc.

Ron Finke President, Chief Investment Officer, Stewardship Capital
Members are the greatest asset of the Chamber. Please support the businesses listed on this page because they support and believe in our community.

The mission of the Independence Chamber of Commerce is to provide leadership and service to promote the economic growth of Independence.

210 West Truman Road
Independence, MO 64050
Phone: 816-252-4745
Fax: 816.252.4917
ichamber.biz

1-4 years
Blue Springs Ford
Cottman Transmission
Family Wrench LLC
First Command Financial Services
Frederick Hahn
Stasyx Custom Software Solutions
Sun Loan Company

5-14 Years
Aetna of Kansas Inc
Lakewood Chiropractic P.C
Nativity of Mary School
Sonic Drive Inn, Jackson Drive
Summit Computer Solutions

15-24 years
Consultants in Gastroenterology
Drumm Farm Center for Children
Matt Ford Sales Inc.
NorthWest Communities Development Corporation
Residence Inn by Marriott
Specialty Landscape Services LLC

25 or more years
AT & T
Comprehensive Mental Health Services
D.W. Newcomer’s Sons
Missouri Gas Energy
Phil Burress State Farm Insurance
Speaks Family Legacy Chapels
Stewart Cook Constance & Minton LLC
Tim’s Pizza

New Members

Wyatt Violin Shop LLC
2418 East R.D. Mize Road
Independence, MO 64050
(816) 252-5656

Remax Elite, Realtors
4243 NE Lakewood Way
Lee’s Summit, MO 64064
(816) 373-8400

Kansas City Hospice & Palliative Care
14500 E. 42nd Street
Suite 240
Independence, MO 64055
(816) 468-5700

Independence Refreshments
18725 Gateway
Independence, MO 64057
(816) 616-3765

iofficeclean
502 NE Leann Dr
Blue Springs, MO 64014
(407) 982-0524

Villages of Jackson Creek
3980 S Jackson Drive
Independence, MO 64057
(816) 7951433

Toppers Food Mart
3675 S Noland Road
Suite 115
Independence, MO 64055
(816) 522-8262

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