

The Chamber

# View

Quarterly Newsletter



*Sawyer Brown*

SantaCaliGon Days Festival  
Main Stage Entertainment  
Saturday, Sept. 4th  
9:30 PM

*Country music's award-winning band*

July/August/September  
2021

# Community Leader Members

The Independence Chamber of Commerce is grateful to our Community Leader members for their ongoing support, which allows us to offer programs and events that help our city and members grow and prosper.



**As**  
**ASPHALTIC SURFACES**  
 ———— LLC. ————  
*Paving our way into the future*



1973 2021

# SANTACALIGON

INDEPENDENCE, MO

★ ★ ★ 49 ★ ★ ★

PRESENTED BY: **xfinity**

Sept. 3rd-6th, 2021 ★ Historic Independence Square  
**FREE CONCERTS ★ FREE ADMISSION**  
**ARTS & CRAFTS ★ CARNIVAL**



**Little Texas**  
Friday, Sept. 3rd



**Sawyer Brown**  
Saturday, Sept. 4th



**Shooting Star**  
Sunday, Sept. 5th

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT  
**SANTACALIGON.COM**

# Calendar of Events

## JULY 21

**MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON**  
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM  
Kansas City Zoo  
6800 Zoo Drive  
Kansas City, MO 64132



Join us for the July Membership Luncheon at the KC Zoo! We will be in the Tropics Event Pavilion at the KC Zoo, and will hear from Randy Whistoff, CEO of the KC Zoo about new things happening at the Zoo. All luncheon guests are welcome to stay at the zoo with free admission afterward. Please kindly register to attend.

**PRESENTING SPONSOR**



**Central Bank**  
of the Midwest

Member FDIC

## JULY 22

**BUSINESS BEFORE HOURS**  
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM  
McCoy's Bar  
Stoney Creek Hotel  
18011 Bass Pro Drive



## JULY 27

**YIP'S LUNCH & LEARN**  
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM  
Chamber of Commerce  
210 W Truman Rd.



## AUGUST 3

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

## AUGUST 4

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**  
8:00 AM  
Chamber of Commerce  
210 W. Truman Rd.

## AUGUST 5

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

## AUGUST 6

**MEMBERSHIP PERKS**  
8:30 AM - 9:30 AM  
Chamber of Commerce  
210 W Truman Rd.



## AUGUST 10

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

## AUGUST 10

**BICENTENNIAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL**  
4:30 PM - 6:00 PM  
Independence Uptown Market  
211 W Truman Rd.

**SPONSORED BY:**



## AUGUST 11

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

## AUGUST 18

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



Plan to attend the Monthly Membership Luncheon, where we will hear from the local Superintendents on the current State of the Schools! Dr. Dale Herl will provide updates on the Independence School District, Dr. Jason Snodgrass will provide updates on the Fort Osage School District, and Dr. Bob Jerome will provide updates on the Blue Springs School District.

**PRESENTING SPONSOR**



## SEPTEMBER 2

**SANTACALIGON DAYS FESTIVAL CARNIVAL OPENS**  
6:00 PM - 11:55 PM  
Historic Independence Square



## SEPTEMBER 3

**CITY OF INDEP MURAL DEDICATION**  
10:00 AM  
Historic Independence Square  
(in front of Ophelia's)

## SEPTEMBER 3

**SANTACALIGON DAYS FESTIVAL**  
NOON - 11:00 PM  
Historic Independence Square



## SEPTEMBER 4

SANTACALIGON DAYS FESTIVAL  
10:00 AM - 11:00 PM  
Historic Independence Square



## SEPTEMBER 5

SANTACALIGON DAYS FESTIVAL  
10:00 AM - 11:00 PM  
Historic Independence Square



## SEPTEMBER 6

SANTACALIGON DAYS FESTIVAL  
10:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
Historic Independence Square



## SEPTEMBER 14

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

## SEPTEMBER 15

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

## SEPTEMBER 15

MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON  
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM  
Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Ctr.  
18011 Bass Pro Drive

Plan to attend the September Monthly Membership Luncheon with a special program from KC Chiefs mascot KC Wolf, a.k.a. Dan Meers.

PRESENTING SPONSOR



## SEPTEMBER 16

QUALITY HOUSING & SAFE  
NEIGHBORHOODS COMMITTEE MEETING  
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM  
Chamber of Commerce &  
Online via Zoom only

## SEPTEMBER 23

RIBBON CUTTING  
4:00-5:00 PM  
Resource Health Services (formerly  
Rachel House)  
815 N Noland Rd.

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

[www.iChamber.biz](http://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*



GOOD MORNING MONDAY

INDEPENDENCE CHAMBER

Be sure to join us LIVE on the Chamber's Facebook page each Monday morning at 9AM to learn about these events and more!

# Ribbon Cuttings



May 12, 2021

**OmniLifeVR**  
304 Armour Rd  
North Kansas City, MO 64116



May 21, 2021

**On the Square Nutrition**  
109 E Lexington Ave  
Independence, MO 64050



May 28, 2021

**Oak Ridge Memory Gardens**  
1440 W Lexington Ave  
Independence, MO 64052

## Legislative Affairs



**Ward Franz**  
Legislative Affairs  
Director

### CORPORATE INCOME TAX INCREASE DISCUSSION

The discussion to increase the corporate income tax continues in Washington. President Biden proposed increasing corporate taxes to pay for his infrastructure plan to fund his \$2.25 trillion American Jobs Plan by partially rolling back the 2017 corporate tax cut under former President Donald Trump that lowered the rate from 35 percent to 21 percent. Biden originally proposed raising the tax to 28% but that percentage has caught push back, so the President seems to be willing to negotiate on 28% and has fallen back to the 25% range. The business community has mixed reviews on this plan plus Republicans in Congress are pushing back, criticizing it as too costly and too broad in scope. Most people agree that it is imperative that the nation's infrastructure be upgraded. But Biden's plan, like most policy proposals in America's deeply partisan landscape, has staunch supporters and loud critics.



**Deadline  
to register  
is  
September  
3rd!**

*L.E.A.D. Class 2021*

**REGISTER TODAY!**

The 2021-2022 L.E.A.D. class will meet 9 times on the third Thursday of each month from September to May. The class that make up LEAD 2021 will choose what they study and what businesses and sites they will visit.

**ONLINE REGISTRATION AVAILABLE:**

Visit [www.ichamber.biz](http://www.ichamber.biz) and get more information or apply online. Or, if you prefer the personal touch, please contact Trina Anderson at (816) 356-6121 or email her at [Trina@ichamber.biz](mailto:Trina@ichamber.biz).

**Now accepting  
applications for the  
L.E.A.D.  
2021-2022 Class**

*Developed by the Independence Chamber of Commerce, L.E.A.D. Independence aims to provide a network of informed leaders with a commitment to the continued growth and development of our City. L.E.A.D. Independence provides a road map for successful community involvement through interaction with key community leaders and the issues that make Independence distinctive.*

*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 49 years over Labor Day weekend, 2021!

We are happy to offer fantastic entertainment this year on two stages! For more information on participating, please contact Morgan Welch - [morgan@ichamber.biz](mailto:morgan@ichamber.biz)



BUDGET®  
BLINDS



Paul & LuShaun Curtis  
Budget Blinds  
of Concordia/Blue Springs

*They have you covered!*



*Lynne Baker*  
Business to  
Education Connector

It was my pleasure to spend a recent morning with Paul and LuShaun Curtis, who are the franchise owners of Budget Blinds of Concordia/ Blue Springs. Due to Paul's twenty-two year military service career in the Air Force, LuShaun and Paul, with their seven children, have traveled extensively around the world.

Paul and LuShaun researched franchises and found Budget Blinds to be a highly rated company. LuShaun has extensive experience in sewing and creating draperies and other textile originals, thus, she believed it was a natural transfer of her gifted abilities. Budget Blinds of Concordia/ Blue Springs works on a "territory basis", including Concordia, where they live, extending to Blue Springs. That area belongs to their franchise, however Independence is an area, which is open territory and they stated they have enjoyed doing quite a bit of business in our city. We are pleased they have chosen to be members of our Chamber!

One of the aspects of Budget Blinds of Concordia/Blue Springs, which Paul and LuShaun believes sets their company apart, is the additional warranty that is given when Budget Blinds are purchased. A five years, no questions asked, replacement set of blinds can be given, without additional cost, one time in that five-year time period. The Curtis's are also proud to have Abigail Cool, working along side of them, as a Sales Consultant. Abigail has been a part of their business from the beginning and is a vital partner in their work, especially in creating beautiful draperies.

I learned that Budget Blinds is not just about blinds, but also has other services available, including shutters, draperies, area rugs and bedding. I so enjoyed learning that Paul and LuShaun are motivated by serving their customers, in the best way possible. Paul told me, "One of the joys of this business is to meet some very beautiful people. Some people we can help, some we cannot. But meeting new people has been a tremendous pleasure of this job." I would add, meeting Paul and LuShaun was a lovely experience for me, as well!



# Save the Date

## 8.10.2021 | Uptown Market

Ice cream, music, lawn games, and fun for everyone!

Come cool down with us and celebrate Missouri's Bicentennial (200th anniversary of statehood) during the Chamber's ice cream social networking event. Strengthen your business contacts, and engage with new business connections at this FREE networking event.

SPONSORED BY:



# AUGUST LUNCHEON

## State of the Schools

### Featured Speakers



Dr. Dale Herl  
Independence  
School District



Dr. Jason Snodgrass  
Ft. Osage  
School District



Dr. Robert Jerome  
Blue Springs  
School District

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

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

PLEASE KINDLY REGISTER IN ADVANCE

*When:*

*Where:*

**AUGUST**

Wednesday

**18**

11:30 AM-1:00 PM

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

PRESENTING SPONSOR



# SEPTEMBER LUNCHEON

## Featured Speaker



*Dan Meers*

**KC Chiefs Mascot, KC Wolf**

Plan to attend the September Monthly Membership Luncheon with a special program from KC Chiefs mascot KC Wolf, a.k.a. Dan Meers.

PLEASE KINDLY REGISTER IN ADVANCE

*When:*

*Where:*

**SEPTEMBER**

Wednesday

**15**

11:30 AM-1:00 PM

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

PRESENTING SPONSOR



# Happy Anniversary!

Celebrating the membership anniversaries of longstanding Chamber supporters.

## 1-4 Years - July-September 2021

Common House KC  
Blue Mills Plumbing LLC dba Val Gross Plumbing  
Mister DipZ Cookies & Sweet Treats  
Buwen's African Import, LLC  
Joy Coffee LLC  
1st & 10 Sports Collectibles  
Sacred Roots Holistic Healing LLC  
Edward Jones Financial Advisor: Carson F. Burke  
Hugo Becker  
StorTropolis  
Summit Salon Academy KC  
Metro Motors KC  
Dutzel's Catering  
Deals Thrift Mart  
Mark One Electric Co., Inc.

KMC Dermatology  
HopeKids Kansas City  
Pinnacle Bank  
RE/MAX Elite Realtors- Linda Pringle  
Marshall Arts Productions  
Cedarhurst of Blue Springs  
BlendWell Community Cafe  
SCOOB'S TINT & DENTS  
Ennovation Center  
Farmers Insurance The Bryan Hunter Agency  
Lion's Choice  
First National Business Corporation (FN-BC-Kansas City)  
Partners in Primary Care  
Kansas City Structural Steel Inc  
Bolero Salon and Spa  
Jimmy John's Gourmet Sandwiches

## 15-24 Years - July-Sept 2021

CPros Inc  
Jackson County Audiology  
Jackson County Electrical Services Inc  
Swope Health  
Kiwanis Club of Independence  
McDonald's Restaurant - 18910 E US Highway 40  
Lew Printing  
Hilton Garden Inn Independence  
The Big Biscuit  
Hillcrest Transitional Housing  
Kansas City Chiefs Football Club, Inc

## 25-39 Years - July-Sept 2021

Edward Jones, Craig Bolger  
The Salvation Army  
American Medical Response  
AFS Insurance  
Community Services League  
Independence Economic Development Council  
Mugs Up Drive In  
State Farm Insurance, Blake Roberson

## 5-14 Years - July-September 2021

St. Mary's Medical Center  
Los Cabos Mexican Grill & Cantina  
JG Contracting, LLC  
University Health on the Go!- 23rd St  
Cunningham Auto and Collision CARSTAR  
Edward Jones, Drew Hammer  
Dental Excellence  
Driskill Business Development Group, Inc./Sandler Training  
Paychex  
Liberty Tax Service  
City of Independence Tourism  
Beth Franklin Real Estate Team at Keller Williams  
Rotary Club of Eastern Independence  
Susan Appleberry Widick, DDS, PC  
Truman Heritage Habitat for Humanity  
Cosentino's Sunfresh  
Cable Dahmer Arena  
Independence Hydraulics Inc.  
TNC Community  
Drumm Farm Golf Club

## 40-49 Years - April-June 2021

Cardwell & Associates  
HEMCO Corporation  
Cable-Dahmer Buick GMC  
Sladek Do it Best Hardware

# Cheers for success!

**FOR MORE INFO ABOUT THESE  
BUSINESSES & ALL CHAMBER MEMBERS  
VISIT [WWW.ICHAMBER.BIZ](http://WWW.ICHAMBER.BIZ)**

## Officers:

**Beth Franklin**  
Chair of the Board  
Keller Williams Real Estate

**Kim Deveney**  
Treasurer  
American Funding Solutions,  
LLC

**Eric Knipp**  
Chair Elect  
i360 Insurance, LLC

**Sonci Bleckinger**  
Past Chair of the Board  
Central Bank of the Midwest

## 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:

**Jim Allin**  
Fish Window Cleaning

**Austin Conley**  
Austin Conley Agency

**Alec Cook**  
Continental Siding

**Doug Cowan**  
Community Services League

**Erin Cox**  
Winchester LCAAP

**Ron Finke**  
Stewardship Capital

**Bob Glaser**  
Community America Credit Union

**Steve Graffeo**  
Community of Christ

**Yvonne Hall**  
Blue Ridge Bank & Trust

**Mary House**  
Cruise Planners

**Bret Kolman**  
Centerpoint Medical Center

**Cindy McClain**  
McClain Enterprises, Inc.

**Matt Medley**  
Medley Smiles

**Brad Smith**  
Drumm Farm Center for Children

**Brad Speaks**  
Speaks Family Legacy Chapels

**Terri Steele**  
Evans & Steele Financial, LLC

**Trevor Tilton**  
The Trevor Tilton Farmers Agency

**Laurie Dean Wiley**  
Financial Advisor - Hoot Owl Financial

## Chamber Team:

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

**Trina Anderson**  
Director of Membership Services  
trina@ichamber.biz

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

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

**Ward Franz**  
Legislative Affairs Director  
ward@ichamber.biz

**Morgan Welch**  
Special Projects Manager  
morgan@ichamber.biz

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

**Andréa Zorich**  
Administrative Assistant  
andrea@ichamber.biz



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

## Save The Date



**SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE:**  
Contact Morgan Welch - Morgan@ichamber.biz or call (816) 252-4745



# Leadership

Quote of the Quarter

“Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.”  
~ Edward Everett Hale ~



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

# WELCOME New Chamber Members

- Freedom Financial Advisors, LLC
- Phone Systems Design, LLC
- The Trash Box
- Sunshine's Hair Haven
- Tasty Unicorn
- St. Croix Hospice
- Mary Kay - Fergie Morton
- Roberts Turf & Landscape LLC
- Ladybug Mobile Notary - Krystal Chinoy
- Mortan Man HVAC and Plumbing
- Sunshine Art by Nancy

