

The Chamber

View



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
October/November/December



Jeff Houghton

Chamber Night Live Guest Host
Saturday, February 1, 2025
6:00 PM-9:30 PM
Hilton Garden Inn

Legacy Partner & Community Leaders



The Independence Chamber of Commerce is grateful for our Legacy Partner & Community Leader Members!

We appreciate their ongoing support allowing us to offer programs and events that help our city and members grow and prosper.

Legacy Partner



Community Leaders



CHAMBER NIGHT *Live*

**EXPERIENCE
THE CHAMBER
BANQUET LIKE
NEVER BEFORE!**

*Join us for Chamber Night Live -
where laughter, music, and
camaraderie collide!*

Featuring
**JEFF HOUGHTON
AS GUEST HOST**



*Save
the Date*

**SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 1, 2025
6:00 PM-9:30 PM
HILTON GARDEN INN**

**BRACE YOURSELF FOR
A NIGHT FILLED WITH
LAUGHTER AND
ENTERTAINMENT AS
JEFF HOUGHTON TAKES
THE STAGE FOR AN
UNFORGETTABLE NIGHT**

OCTOBER

OCTOBER 1

RIBBON CUTTING
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Independence Police Substation
Independence Center
18801 E 39th Street South

OCTOBER 2

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

OCTOBER 3

TASTY THURSDAY
Networking from 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
Courthouse Exchange
113 West Lexington Avenue

AND

RIBBON CUTTING
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
The Arc of the Ozarks Kansas City
500 NE Colbern Road
Lee's Summit, MO 64086



OCTOBER 8

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

AND

RIBBON CUTTING
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Kingdom Recovery
10704 Westport Rd

OCTOBER 9

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

OCTOBER 10

MIX & MINGLE MANIA AFTER HOURS
4:00 PM - 5:30 PM
Chamber of Commerce &
210 W Truman Rd



OCTOBER 11

RIBBON CUTTING
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM
The Red Force Fire & Security
917 NW Jefferson Street
Blue Springs, MO 64015

OCTOBER 15

**INDEPENDENCE YOUNG PROFESSIONALS
NIGHT OUT W/THE LEE'S SUMMIT YOUNG
PROFESSIONALS**
4:30 PM - 6:00 PM
Main Event
4600 S Cochise Court



OCTOBER 16

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

Featured Speaker



Kira Lajune
Motivational Speaker &
Confidence Coach

Join us for an empowering October
Membership Luncheon - Women
in Biz Luncheon with international
award-winning motivational speaker
and confidence coach guest speaker,
Kira Lajune.

**SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
AVAILABLE**

Please contact Mikealene Evans if you are
interested. Email: mikealene@ichamber.biz
-or- Phone: (816) 607-8827

OCTOBER 18

**PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
and LEGISLATIVE HEARING**
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM
Chamber of Commerce &
Online via Zoom

AND

RIBBON CUTTING & CELEBRATION
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Mixed Mutt & Company
108 S Liberty Street

OCTOBER 22

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



OCTOBER 23

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP
BOARD MEETING**
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM
Chamber of Commerce

OCTOBER 24

BUSINESS BEFORE HOURS
7:30 AM - 9:00 AM
Oak Street Health
16659 East 23rd Street



OCTOBER 26

76TH ANNUAL HALLOWEEN PARADE
10:00 AM
Historic Independence SCARE (Square)
116 W. Lexington



PRESENTING SPONSOR



NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER 5

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

NOVEMBER 5

DEI LEARNING SERIES
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
Chamber of Commerce
210 W Truman Rd



NOVEMBER 7

PROGRESSIVE PARTY
4:30 PM-6:00 PM
Chamber of Commerce

Join us for the 11th Annual Progressive Party where you progress through every room in the Chamber offices to find enticing food, drink and games from awesome chamber businesses.

NOVEMBER 12

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

NOVEMBER 13

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

NOVEMBER 14

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING
8:30 AM - 9:30 AM
Chamber of Commerce

NOVEMBER 15

PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING and LEGISLATIVE HEARING
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM
Chamber of Commerce &
Online via Zoom

NOVEMBER 20

MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Hilton Garden Inn
19677 E Jackson Dr



Featured Speaker

Dr. Chris Kuehl
Chief Economist
Armada Corporate
Intelligence

Join us to hear from Dr. Chris Kuehl as he shares his thoughts on the national and world economy and what it means for the local business community,

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

Please contact Mikealene Evans if you are interested. Email: mikealene@ichamber.biz
-or- Phone: (816) 607-8827

DECEMBER

DECEMBER 3

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS ROCK, PAPER, SCISSORS TOURNAMENT AND NETWORKING EVENT
4:30 PM - 6:00 PM
3 Trails Brewery
111 N. Main Street



Join the Independence Young Professionals for a Holiday Rock, Paper, Scissors tournament and networking open house. Food and drinks will be provided, and the winners of the tournament will receive great prizes!

DECEMBER 4

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

DECEMBER 5

TASTY THURSDAY
Networking from 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
A Little BBQ Joint
1101 W US Hwy 24



DECEMBER 6

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 10

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

DECEMBER 11

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

DECEMBER 12

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



Join us for a festive celebration at the Vaile Mansion during our Holiday Business After Hours event! Immerse yourself in the holiday spirit as you tour the beautifully decorated mansion, savor delicious food and drinks, and engage in fabulous networking opportunities.

DECEMBER 18

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

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

DECEMBER 20

PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
8:00 AM - 8:30 AM
and LEGISLATIVE HEARING
8:30 AM - 9:30 AM
Chamber of Commerce &
Online via Zoom



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.

Ribbon Cuttings



July 10, 2024

Ferguson Computer Services, Inc.
4200 S Little Blue Pkwy Suite 630
Independence, MO 64057



July 18, 2024

Helzberg Diamonds
19007 E 39th Street
Independence, MO 64057



July 19, 2024

Whimsical Eats
201 N Forest Ave
Independence, MO 64050



August 15, 2024

Adirondack Apartments
4580 Bass Pro Drive
Independence, MO 64055



August 16, 2024

Wake & Bacon
201 N Forest Ave
Independence, MO 64050



September 20, 2024

Bold Reuse
408 N Osage St
Independence, MO 64050

GET INVOLVED IN THE FUN!



HOSTED BY:



PARTICIPATE SPONSOR OR VOLUNTEER!

PARADE ENTRY DEADLINE OCT. 18TH PRICES WILL INCREASE AFTER DEADLINE

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 TO LEARN MORE



WOMEN IN BUSINESS



Featured Speaker
Kira Lajune
International Award-Winning
Motivational Speaker

OCTOBER
Wednesday
16
11:30 AM-1:00 PM

The City House
14300 E US Hwy 40
Kansas City, MO 64136

INDEPENDENCE CHAMBER

UPCOMING LUNCHEONS

Join Us!

ECONOMIC INSIGHTS

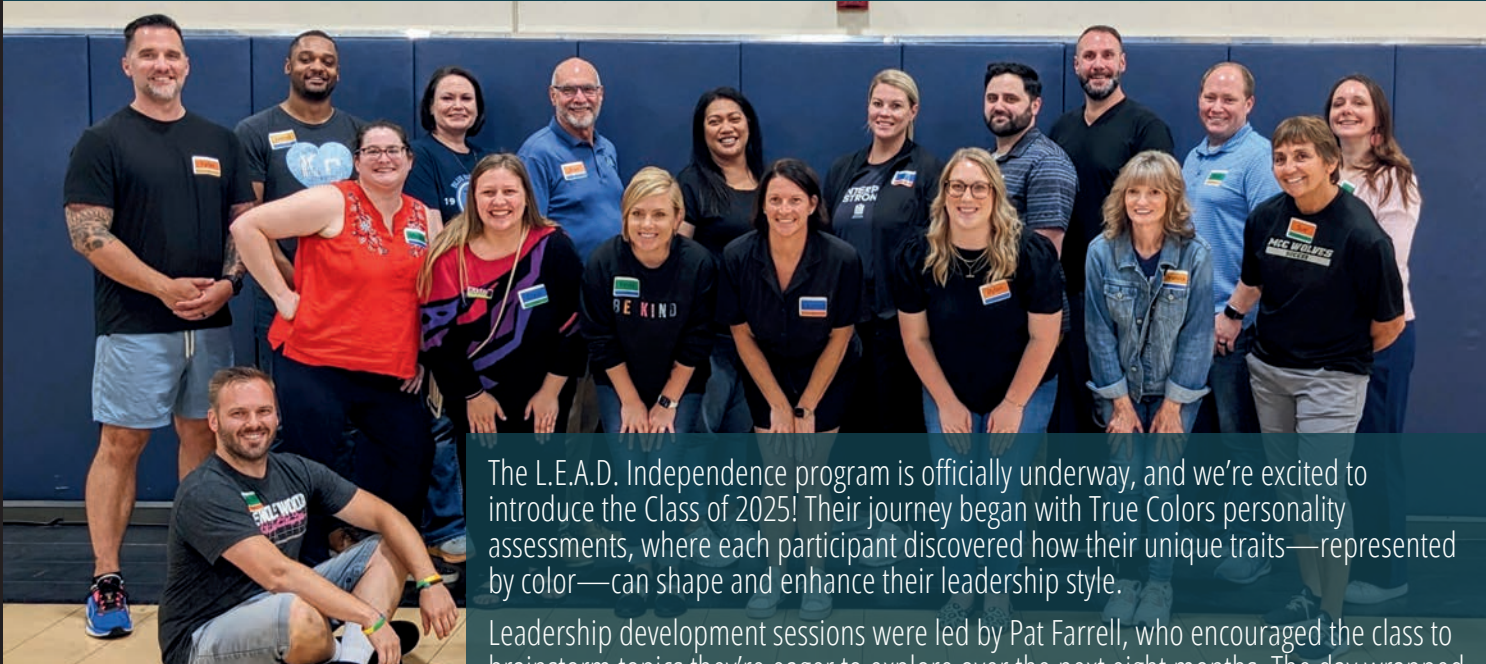


Featured Speaker
Chris Kuehl
Chief Economist
Armada Corporate Intelligence

NOVEMBER
Wednesday
20
11:30 AM-1:00 PM

Hilton Garden Inn
19677 E Jackson Drive
Independence, MO 64050

MEET THE L.E.A.D. CLASS OF 2025



The L.E.A.D. Independence program is officially underway, and we're excited to introduce the Class of 2025! Their journey began with True Colors personality assessments, where each participant discovered how their unique traits—represented by color—can shape and enhance their leadership style.

Leadership development sessions were led by Pat Farrell, who encouraged the class to brainstorm topics they're eager to explore over the next eight months. The day wrapped up with impactful team-building exercises led by Better Humans, LLC, helping the class build strong, collaborative bonds. Stay tuned for more updates as this dynamic group grows and learns together!



LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING & HEARINGS

★ BRIEFING ★

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

★ HEARINGS ★

As part of the development of the Chamber's 2025 legislative agenda, testimony from members is heard by the Public Policy Committee.

HEARINGS

October 18, 2024
8:00 AM



November 15, 2024
8:00 AM



BRIEFING

December 20, 2024
8:30 AM



JOIN US IN PERSON OR VIA ZOOM



TO ATTEND,
PLEASE KINDLY
REGISTER FOR
THESE EVENTS



Online via Zoom
Please register to receive
Zoom information



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

SAVE THE DATE

I WANT MY 80'S BACK

PROGRESSIVE PARTY

11.7.2024

4-6 pm

Independence Chamber
210 W. Truman Rd.
Independence, MO 64050

SCAN
CODE FOR
DETAILS



INDEPENDENCE
CHAMBER

Member Spotlight



Lynne Baker

Member Relations

Finding your passion sometimes takes time...

Early in 2024, the Independence Redevelopment Committee held a three day Workshop at the Independence Chamber of Commerce Board Room. There were many designs and renderings of various creative ideas around the room, however, my eye was drawn to the work of a local architect, Dan Pierce. My interest in architecture has always been a case of valuing the marvel of creations I have viewed, but having not a clue as to how the images were completed. However, I wanted to meet Dan and discover the reasons he entered his profession. I found his career journey to be unusual and inspiring.

Dan grew up in Lee's Summit, MO and graduated from Lee Summit High School. He, like many of his fellow LSHS graduates, went to UCM in the fall, majoring in Computer Information Systems. One and a half years later, he was coding, coding, coding...and he couldn't see himself doing that for the rest of his life. Following conversations with his fraternity advisor, Bob Showers, Dan switched to Finance and graduated from college.

Upon graduation, Dan moved to St. Louis, MO and found a job as a personal banker, which led to his involvement with mortgage sales. Dan found that mortgage sales were not a great fit for his personal skills, so he returned to the Kansas City area and worked with an insurance company. He found the job to include many of the benefits he desired...a car and a computer, as well as traveling around the metro, yet his creative side of life felt "incomplete".

Introduced to his wife, Chelsea, by his college friend, Angie Judy of Independence, Dan was married in 2010. His wife sensed, Dan's career possibilities were leaving him unfulfilled. Chelsea encouraged Dan to return to college, to follow the career aspirations he had always felt. A conversation with his father-in-law changed the course of Dan's life. His FIL asked him why he was reluctant to return to school and Dan told him, he was in an "OK" career and would be six years older if he returned to school and obtained his architectural degree. His FIL wisely answered, "You will be that many years older anyway, and wouldn't you rather have a career that you found enjoyable and interesting?"

Dan spent about a year and a half finishing his electives at Johnson County Community College, building his portfolio, before attending Kansas University and earning his master's in architecture. He particularly enjoyed his Architectural History class. He was selected to participate in a yearlong internship of studying abroad in Paris, with a professor who had lots of connections in the world of Architecture. The professor was quite critical in the beginning, yet during the year, he and Dan formed a strong relationship of respect and appreciation. Additionally, Dan was placed in the international architectural firm of Jean Nouvel, in Paris, who's cinematic and storytelling attributes are woven together to present a unique creative process which greatly influenced Dan's presentation skills.



Member Spotlight Continued...



Currently, Dan works with a firm GLMV, which recently rebranded to Tessere. This Wichita, Kansas firm has been in operation since 1919. He has enjoyed a great experience with Tessere, and has great appreciation, in part because this firm “kept all its’people employed during the Pandemic” as well as the opportunity to grasp and understand the visualization studio process, he has previously enjoyed to a high level. Much of the architectural industry limits the visualization process approach, because it is very time consuming to the architectural firm, for so much time to be devoted to the completion of the entire process.

Dan shares three children with Chelsea: Blair, age 11, Graham, age 9 and Sylvia, age 6. He has been active in designing some of the structures in Independence and surrounding areas, as well. He finds his career so very rewarding, as he can see his projects, and their impact on the community’s use. He has also found great satisfaction in knowing each of his building designs affects the community spirit in a positive manner. Dan is happy to be a part of the Community of Independence, as well as the Chamber of our city. Dan believes that our community, in Independence, is on the cusp of seeing the vision of possibilities, which can bring newfound interest to our city! Dan is in partnership at the Independence branch of Tessere with Chad Prunte and Riley Griffith.

Dan was a pleasure to meet and interview! He is an authentic and delightful young man and gives me great hope in the unlimited potential of possibilities for my beloved city!

Learn more about the Tessere team at [Tessere.com](https://www.tessere.com)



Happy Anniversary!

Celebrating the membership anniversaries of longstanding Chamber supporters.

1-4 Years - October-December 2024

Affordable Home Foundation Inc.
Alchemy House LLC
Allen Garner
Anytime Fitness
AOM Brokers
Asphaltic Surfaces
Auto Beauty Center
Cardinal Points Construction, Inc.
CareNow Urgent Care Independence West
Carrick on Argo
Central Bank - Noland Rd
Centric
Chick-in Waffle
City Credit Union
Community Access
Convergence Financial
Design Mechanical
Doug Goodwin
Eagle Mobile Notary LLC
Edward Jones, Andrea McMillin
Edward Jones, Michael Rowe
Englewood Arts
Essential Eats Grazing, LLC
Express Employment Professionals
FedEx Ground

Fine Cut Concrete Drilling & Sawing LLC
Focused Forensic Solutions, LLC
Habitat For Humanity ReStore
Heartland Auto Glass
Holy Rosary Credit Union
I Noah Guy Home Improvements
IPK LLC/9Round Kickboxing
Kansas Asphalt Inc.
KC Hearing Center
Krete Construction
L R Case-Harmon & Co CPA, LLC
LandRock
Local Investment Commission (LINC)
Marie A Hudson Farmers Insurance Agency
Martin Underground
Mary Kay Independent Beauty Consultant
McBee's Coffee N Carwash 24 Hwy
Mid-Continent Public Library Farview
Neighborhood Library
Mobility First Inc.
Mum's Here
Nature Med
Omega Door

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
SBD Housing Solutions
Scott Davidson Ins Agency INC
ShowMe Pension Group, Inc.
Small Biz Social
Spectrum Paint
Sri's Kitchen
St. Mark's United Methodist
Summit Pizza
Tessere
The Adirondack Apartments
The Horn Law Firm, P.C.
Transformation Visitation Home
United Rentals - Reliable Onsite Services
ZenBusiness

5-14 Years - October-December 2024

All Star Pictures
Allis Chalmers Industrial Park
Blair's Foster Socks
CareNow Urgent Care Independence
Charlie's Car Wash
Community Blood Center
Courthouse Exchange Restaurant & Lounge
Crown Staffing
El Pico Mexican Restaurant
Englewood Business Association
First Federal Bank of Kansas City - Independence
Blue Ridge Banking Center
First Federal Bank of Kansas City - Independence
Noland Road Banking Center
Hap Graff
Hope House
Hy-Vee Food & Drug Store 23rd St

Independence Family Eye Care
Independence Square Townhouses
Jim Carter Truck Parts
Kansas City Comets
Kelly Freeland
Kim Connects KC Home Team
KJ Remodeling LLC
Lotus Key Homes LLC
Main Event Entertainment
Mauer Law Firm
MVP Awards and Engraving
New Diamond Bowl
Newmark Zimmer
MVP Awards and Engraving
New Diamond Bowl
Newmark Zimmer
Phoenix Home Care & Hospice

RE/MAX Elite, REALTORS - T. David Rogers
Servpro of Lee's Summit, Raytown, East Kansas City
Smoothie King- Bolger Rd.
Speaks Chapels LLC- Suburban Chapel
St. Michael the Archangel Catholic High School
Synago LLC
The Arc of the Ozarks
University Health Community Care Fairmount
UpDog
Wild About Harry Men's Accessories & Furnishings
Worlds of Fun

15-24 Years - October-December 2024

AAA Disposal Service
BeHereNow
Cafe Verona
Children's Mercy
Clinton's Soda Fountain
Creative Planning Business Services
Edward Jones, Adam Kliethermes
Edward Jones, Chris Thiele

Gilbert Whitney & Co
Hereford House Restaurant
Hilburn Trucking Inc.
Independence School District Foundation
Independence Square Association
Kansas City Public Library -Trails West Branch
Main Street Coffee House

Mother's Refuge
Ophelia's Restaurant & Inn
Rand Construction Co.
Square Pizza
State Farm Insurance, Chad Mitchell
State Farm Insurance, Stacey Schell
Newland
Studio on Main

25-39 Years - October-December 2024

1st MidAmerica Credit Union
Auto Color & Equipment Inc.
Balanced Body Chiropractic Center PC
Bank of Grain Valley
Cargo Largo
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 Women's Clinic
Junior Service League of Independence
McDaniel Furnace & Sheet Metal Inc.
Midwest Machine Co. Inc.
Recognition Plus
Red Carpet Service
Rotary Club of Independence
Sam's Club
Silverstein Eye Centers PC
Smokehouse Barbecue
The Fountains at Greenbriar
V's Italiano Ristorante

40-49 Years - October-December 2024

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

Cheers for Success!

WE DEEPLY APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT, ENGAGEMENT, AND UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO THE INDEPENDENCE COMMUNITY. WITH DEDICATED MEMBERS LIKE YOU, WE CAN DRIVE POSITIVE CHANGE THROUGH VARIOUS BUSINESS INITIATIVES

WELCOME

New Chamber Members

July-September 2024

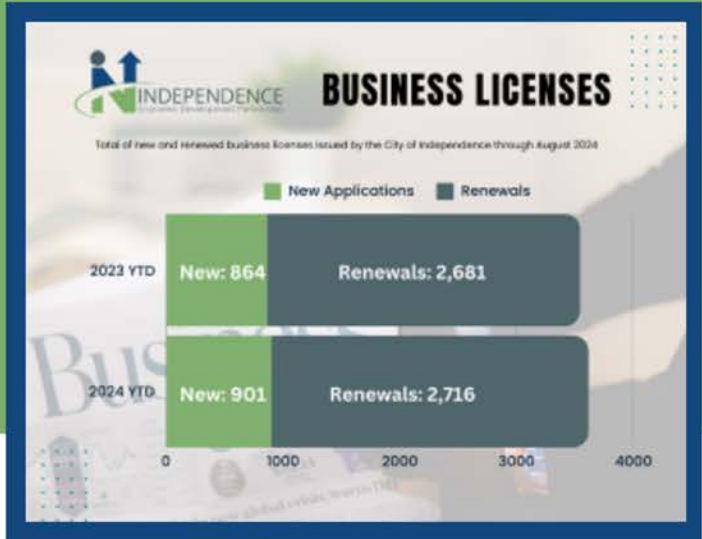
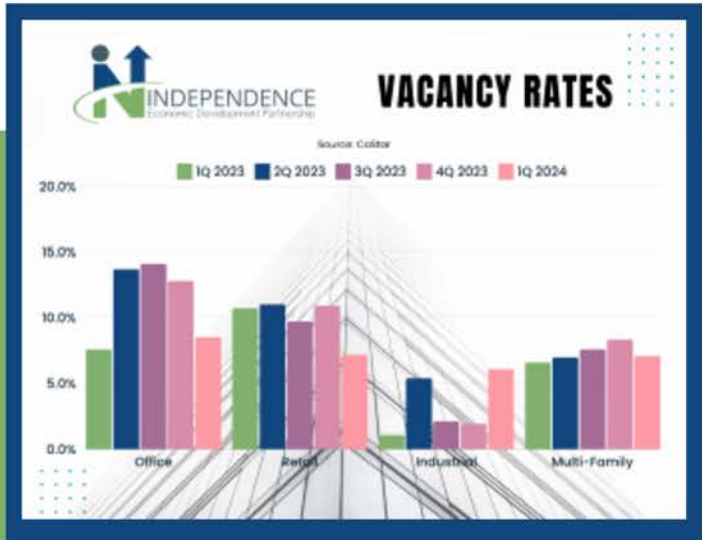
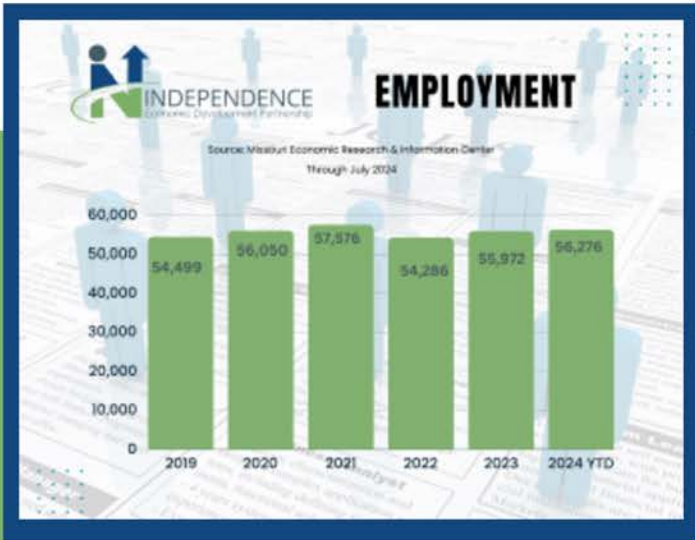
Beacon of HOPE & Support Life's Journey and Recovery
Bobby Jackson's Trading
Bold Reuse
Deluxe Inn/ Meet Hotel LLC
Enterprise Resource Planning Solutions LLC
Evolve Health and Wellness
Independence 76 Fire Company
John Pritchard
Kanji Hospitality LLC
Kingdom Recovery MO
Lem Coleman Realtor
Mixed Mutt & Company
Platform Promotions LLC
Sign Gypsies North Independence
Sno-Pop Carnival Treats LLC
Spirit of Independence Community Concert Band
Sports Stadium Motel

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

SCAN QR CODE FOR THE DIRECTORY



Visit the NEW IEDP page on the Chamber's website
ichamber.biz/iedp



FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INQUIRIES CONTACT

Tom Lesnak
 Independence Chamber President
 Independence Economic Development Partnership
 Email: tom@ichamber.biz
 Phone: 816.463.3510

Leadership

Quote of the Quarter

“If your actions create a legacy that inspires others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, then, you are an excellent leader.”

~ Dolly Parton ~



OUR BUSINESS IS BUSINESS

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

Caught on Camera



Alumni Holiday Luncheon

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

LEAD

INDEPENDENCE

Food, fun,
fellowship &
prizes!

Friday, December 6th | 11:30 AM-1:00 PM

Carrabba's Italian Grill