

The Chamber

View



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
July/August/September 2025



PRESENTED BY

xfinity

PHIL VASSAR
25 YEARS OF PARADISE

Main Stage Entertainment
Saturday, August 30th, 2025 | 8:00 PM
SantaCaliGon Days Festival



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



CENTERPOINT MEDICAL CENTER



PRESENTED BY **xfinity**

**HISTORIC INDEPENDENCE SQUARE
INDEPENDENCE, MO**



HOSTED BY
**INDEPENDENCE
CHAMBER**

**ARTS, CRAFTS &
MUSIC FESTIVAL
LABOR DAY WEEKEND
AUG. 29TH - SEPT. 1ST, 2025**

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

SANTACALIGON.COM

FOLLOW US



JULY

July 8

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

July 9

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

July 17

RIBBON CUTTING
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Vy's Kitchen Food Truck
210 W Truman Rd.
(Chamber Parking Lot)

July 23

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

July 24

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS
4:30 PM - 6:00 PM
Independence Square Assoc.
106 S Liberty St



SPONSORED BY



AUGUST

August 5

IN BIZ COMMITTEE MEETING
4:30 PM - 6:00 PM
Independence Square Assoc.
106 S Liberty St

August 6

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

August 7

TASTY THURSDAY
Networking from 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
Cafe Verona
206 W Lexington Ave



Have you ever heard of a
lunch mob?
This is our version!

This month we will be patronizing
Cafe Verona!

There is no specific time for this event,
it is come and go as your schedule al-
lows. From Open to Close our members
are able to patronize this restaurant and
help them out by leaving a review!

August 8

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



The Chamber offers many membership
perks that can help your business.
Whether you are a new member or a
member that needs a refresher on all
things Chamber related, be sure to join
us for an informative meeting to learn
about Chamber benefits and programs
offered to our members.

August 12

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

August 13

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

August 20

**MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON &
STATE OF THE SCHOOLS**
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
The City House
14300 E US Highway 40

Featured Speakers



Dr. Cynthia Grant
Independence
School District



Dr. Jason Snodgrass
Fort Osage
School District



Dr. Robert Jerome
Blue Springs
School District

You're invited to join us for the August
Membership Luncheon – State of the
Schools Edition, a can't-miss event
where we'll hear directly from local
education leaders about the current
State of Our Schools. Dr. Cynthia Grant
from the Independence School District,
Dr. Jason Snodgrass from the Fort Osage
School District, and Dr. Robert Jerome
from the Blue Springs School District
will each share updates and insights on
what's happening in their districts. It's a
great opportunity to stay informed, ask
questions, and connect with others who
care about the future of education in our
community. Seats fill up fast, so be sure
to get registered and save your spot!

PRESENTING SPONSOR



August 21

RIBBON CUTTING
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Arabella Apartments
19501 E R D Mize Rd

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

August 29

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



PRESENTED BY **xfinity**

We are honored to host (along with our sponsor Xfinity), the 53rd celebration of the long-standing Independence tradition, the SantaCaligon® Days Festival. We hope you will join us for a fun weekend that brings our community together to enjoy great music, arts & craft booths, delicious food, carnival rides, and fun activities for the entire family!

FESTIVAL HOURS:

- Carnival Opens on Thursday 6:00 PM - 11:00 PM
- Friday - Noon-11:00 PM
- Saturday - 10:00 AM-11:00 PM
- Sunday - 10:00 AM-11:00 PM
- Monday - 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

August 30

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

August 31

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

SEPTEMBER

September 1

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

September 3

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM
Chamber of Commerce
210 W Truman Rd.

September 9

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

September 10

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

September 16

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS LUNCH & LEARN
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
Chamber of Commerce
210 W Truman Rd



Calling all Young Professionals! Join us for an engaging Lunch & Learn event about 'Leadership' with Lauren Palmer from Ever Strive Solutions! This session will focus on key aspects of personal and professional growth, including self-development, effective networking, and finding meaningful ways to get involved in the community.

September 19

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

AND **LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING**

LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING
8:30 AM - 9:30 AM
Chamber of Commerce &
Online via Zoom

September 23

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



This month, we're thrilled to welcome Susan Brown, Business Solutions Relationship Manager with Central Bank of the Midwest, and Lori Harp, Business Development Specialist with Blue Ridge Bank and Trust Co., as our expert presenters on the topic of Cyber Fraud.

September 25

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS
4:30 PM - 6:00 PM
APEX Sports Hub
19310 E 50th Terrace



SPONSORED BY



September 26

AMBASSADOR INFORMATIONAL
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM
Chamber of Commerce
210 W Truman Rd.

If you have ever wondered about becoming a chamber Ambassador this is the meeting for you.

Chamber Ambassadors are a group of community and business leaders who are actively involved in the Independence Chamber of Commerce and believe in its mission and delivery of member services, events, and programming. 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.



Help us to plan accordingly by registering for these events online:
www.iChamber.biz

Ribbon Cuttings

INDEPENDENCE
CHAMBER



April 18, 2025

Refresh Beauty College
1604 S Noland Rd
Independence, MO 64055



April 25, 2025

KC Auto Clinics - Independence
4011 S Bolger Rd
Independence, MO 64055



June 3, 2025

Independence Police Dept.
Substation on the Square
211 W Lexington



June 12, 2025

Mitwellness
410 South Liberty Street
Independence, MO 64050



June 18, 2025

Shelter Insurance Sam DiGiovanni Agency
3010 S State Route 291 Suite B
Independence, MO 64057



June 25, 2025

McBee's Coffee N Carwash
4121 S Little Blue Pkwy
Independence, MO 64057



iNpact Awards

iNpact Awards are presented to businesses that have made a positive impact to the Independence economy.



Refresh Beauty College
1604 S Noland Rd



KC Auto Clinic-Independence
4011 S Bolger Rd



IPD Substation on the Square
211 W Lexington Ave



Mitwellness
410 South Liberty



Shelter Insurance-Sam Digiovanni
3010 S State Route 291



McBee's Coffee N Carwash
4121 S Little Blue Pkwy

THANK YOU IEDP Private Sector Partner Members



Get Engaged....Join the Partnership

JOIN HERE >>>>>>>



July/Aug/Sept 2025 7



PRESENTED BY **xfinity**

Celebrating Our Pioneering Spirit

Labor Day Weekend
Aug. 29th-Sept. 1st, 2025

Celebrating Our Pioneering Spirit

The 53rd Annual SantaCaliGon® Days Festival is back this Labor Day Weekend, celebrating the bold pioneering spirit that carved paths along the Santa Fe, California, and Oregon Trails.

Hosted by the Independence Chamber of Commerce, this four-day festival is a vibrant blend of history, entertainment, and family fun, and we can't wait to welcome you!

Vendor Extravaganza in Historic Downtown

Nine square blocks of handcrafted goods, artisan treasures, and mouthwatering festival eats await you in charming Historic Downtown Independence. Whether you're hunting for handmade jewelry, wood crafts, or just the perfect funnel cake, it's all here.

Don't Miss the Square Shops!

While you're browsing vendor booths, be sure to swing by the local merchants around the Square. They'll be open during the festival with cool air, unique finds, and plenty of hometown charm. Shop small, shop local!



Main Stage Magic – Free Concerts All Weekend!

Rock out, two-step, and sing along to your favorite tunes on the Main Stage, featuring jumbo screens for the best seat in the house, wherever you are.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 29

6:00 PM – Fast Times | Totally rad '80s vibes

8:00 PM – Women of Rock Tribute | A powerhouse salute to the female legends who made rock history

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30

6:00 PM – Jason Craig and the Wingmen | Southern roots, classic twang

8:00 PM – Phil Vassar | Country radio legend LIVE on stage

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31

6:00 PM – Sebastian James | Soulful, smooth, and full of heart

8:00 PM – The Rock Gods | Rock anthems. Big hair. Even bigger sound.



The Medallion Hunt Returns – Starting July 29!

One of our favorite festival traditions is back — the SantaCaliGon Medallion Hunt kicks off July 29! This year, four medallions will be hidden across Independence, each offering a shot at the grand prize.

Follow daily clues published in The Examiner and on our Facebook page. If you find one, scan the QR code to claim your prize and your place in SantaCaliGon history. Happy hunting, treasure seekers — may the odds (and your sleuthing skills) be ever in your favor!



Carnival Midway Thrills

Carnival Midway Thrills
From classic rides to modern spins and twirls, the Carnival Midway has something for every thrill level. Unlimited ride wristbands will be available for presale online in August. Be sure to keep an eye out!

Main Street 1849 – Step Back in Time

NEW LOCATION THIS YEAR - Presented by the Independence Square Association. Main Street 1849 is moving to Liberty Lounge, just south of Lexington on Liberty Street (between Lexington & Kansas Streets). This frontier-themed experience features pioneer actors, live demos, games, and activities that'll transport you to the 1800s. Perfect for making core family memories (and snagging a few Instagram-worthy pics).



MAIN STREET
1849

Community Stage Presented by Whataburger

Celebrate hometown talent at the Community Stage, where local singers, dancers, performers, and contests will keep the good vibes rolling all day long and into the evening.



FRIDAY, AUGUST 29

5:30 PM – Derick Pierre and Friends
7:30 PM – KC Bones (Grateful Dead Tribute)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30

10:00 AM – Claudia's Legacy Dance Company
11:00 AM – Cathy's Creative Dance School
12:00 PM – Studio 3V Dance Center
2:00 PM – Legacy Entertainment
3:00 PM – Suzette Sings featuring Brother John
4:00 PM – Terry Hancock
5:30 PM – Green Shoebox Band
7:30 PM – Retroactive

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31

12:00 PM – Ice Cream Eating Contest (Sponsored by Clinton's Soda Fountain)
1:00 PM – Root Beer Chugging Contest (Sponsored by Polly's Pop)
2:00 PM – Veterans Pinning Ceremony
3:00 PM – Critical Rock Theory
5:30 PM – Mirage KC
7:30 PM – Bond & Determined

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

11:00 AM – KC Heart of America Chorus
12:30 PM – School of Rock
2:00 PM – Time Bandits KC



COME FOR THE HISTORY, STAY FOR THE
FUNNEL CAKES, THE FREE CONCERTS,
AND THE UNFORGETTABLE MEMORIES.
WE'LL SEE YOU AT SANTACALIGON #53!

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
SANTACALIGON.COM

Member Spotlight

Independence's Own "Wonder Woman"



Lynne Baker

Member Relations



Terri Steele, a member of the Board of the Chamber of Commerce in Independence, is known for many reasons! Terri was born in Atlantic, Iowa, a small city of about 10,000 people, located between Omaha, Nebraska, and Des Moines, Iowa. She grew up as the only child of parents Don and Shirley Stelpflug, both of whom worked at Walnut Grove, a livestock and feed company. Like many of us, Terri grew up in an idyllic place where her childhood was filled with wonderful memories.

While returning from vacation during her late high school years, her parents asked if she wanted to see the campus of Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville. She immediately fell in love with the campus, and the college became a tradition in the Steele household, as she later met her husband, Greg, there as well. He was from Milam, Missouri, and asked her out seven times before she finally agreed to go on a date with him. Greg was older and a "frat boy," so Terri wanted to be sure about this guy before giving him a chance. After graduation, Greg moved to rural eastern Iowa to manage a feed elevator, while Terri moved to Cedar Rapids, where she worked as a manager at a large tax

firm. They married, and shortly afterward, Greg took a new job as an underwriter in the insurance industry, marking the beginning of their journey to Kansas City.

After moving to Kansas City, Terri obtained a job at Guardian Life and worked behind the scenes in financial planning. The sales manager at Guardian Life, Bill Evans, later partnered with her to launch their own firm, Evans and Steele Financial, in 1994.

Over the years, Terri experienced the loss of her grandparents, then her father, and eventually her mother. These life transitions brought valuable lessons, and she found deep support from her parents' financial advisor, who even traveled from Atlantic, Iowa, to Kansas City to meet with her. Inspired by that experience, Terri has continued to weave her family into the heart of her business, which has truly become a family affair.

Her daughter Amy joined Evans and Steele about fifteen years ago, and her daughter Lindsey came on board about five years ago. Both women have earned their licenses (triple-licensed, in fact, all three women have seven)! Not to leave out her third daughter, Ashley, she's a manager of events for the law firm Polsinelli.

Thanks to Terri's cheerful and joyous personality, her business has recently expanded to the Boston, Massachusetts area. She met a like-minded woman at a Women's Financial Conference in Fort Lauderdale in 2024. Both were keynote speakers, and Terri encouraged her new friend to leave her bank advisement role and launch her own financial planning practice under the Evans and Steele umbrella. One thing that brings Terri tremendous pride? Evans and Steele has never advertised. Their entire business has grown through good old-fashioned "word of mouth"!



I found Terri's business principles to be a great match for the wonderful woman I know Terri to be ...principles based on her values of watching her parents conduct business, her own business experience of thirty-one years, and then to be a business and community leader and living by those same honest and life-affirming ideas! Her principles include:

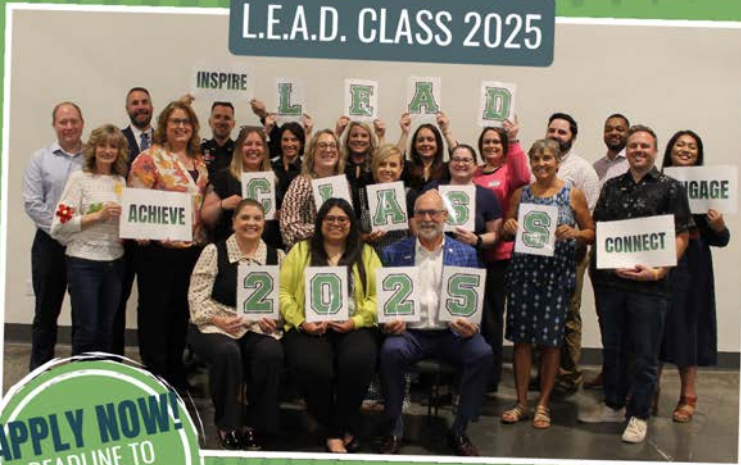
- Getting to know the client and understanding their own life plan at the most personal level
- Educating your client and following them through life to make sure their goals and plans are met
- Comprehensive planning for each client, from assuring they have the best auto, home, liability, disability and life insurance, as well as aiding them in their understanding of Medicare, Social Security, wills, and trusts. Also to assure the titling of all their assets so the costs and confusion of probate can be avoided!

The Steele's have made their home in Independence for many years. All three of their girls, Amy, Lindsey and Ashley, as well as their families, are involved in SantaCaliGon, the largest free music festival in the state of Missouri. Literally, the girls were babies, when Terri and Greg got involved. Terri and Greg are solid, community leaders, who can be counted on to get the job done. Both have very demanding assignments at SantaCaliGon: Terri schedules all the volunteers and Greg is the head of Security...but they have never wavered, when it comes to supporting and making their community the best possible place to live. The Steele Family lives by the idea of working hard, doing the right thing and keeping your focus on the job until it is completed.



THANK YOU TERRI, GREG AND YOUR FAMILY FOR BEING PRESENT AND GETTING THE JOB DONE!

L.E.A.D. CLASS 2025



APPLY NOW!
DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS SEPT. 1ST

**DON'T DELAY!
REGISTER TODAY! SPACE LIMITED!**

SCAN QR CODE FOR MORE INFO OR TO APPLY



NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS!

LEAD INDEPENDENCE

2025-2026 CLASS



Meets 3rd Thursday each month, September-May



Local insight & connections



Professional development



Applications close Sept. 1 - and yes, it fills FAST.

Happy Anniversary!

Celebrating the membership anniversaries of longstanding Chamber supporters.

1-4 Years - July-September 2025

Abundant Life Independence
Archwell Health
Bobby Jackson's Trading
Bold Reuse
Deluxe Inn/ Meet Hotel LLC
Dog Training Elite Kansas City South
Enterprise Resource Planning Solutions LLC
Evolve Health and Wellness
Gaffney & Company, LLC
Hill Pro-Motion Physical Therapy
Independence 76 Fire Company
Independence Manor Care Center
InReach Aquatic Physical Therapy
John Pritchard
Justin Garner Dentistry
Kanji Hospitality LLC
Kingdom Recovery MO
Laura Lynne Real Estate

Lem Coleman Realtor
Mixed Mutt & Company
Morgan Miller Plumbing
Musketeer Home Care
Nate Tate the Insurance Guy
paraMi LLC
Platform Promotions LLC
Sign Gypsies North Independence
Silver Heart Inn
Sno-Pop Carnival Treats LLC
Spirit of Independence Community Concert Band
Sports Stadium Motel
The Cleaning Crew of KC LLC
The Mystery Hour
Three Oaks Hospice

5-14 Years - July-September 2025

Beth Franklin Real Estate Team at Keller Williams
BlendWell Community Cafe
Cable Dahmer Arena
City of Independence Tourism
Cosentino's Sunfresh
Dental Excellence
Dutzel's Catering
Edward Jones Financial Advisor: Carson F. Burke
Edward Jones, Drew Hammer
Ennovation Center
First National Business Corporation (FNBC-Kansas City)
Kansas City Structural Steel Inc
KMC Dermatology
Liberty Tax Service
Mark One Electric Co., Inc.

Marshall Arts Productions
McCownGordon Construction
Metro Motors KC
Rotary Club of Eastern Independence
Sarah Cannon Cancer Center
Scoob's Tine & Dents
St. Mary's Medical Center
Susan Appleberry Widick, DDS, PC
TNC Community
Tom and Eileen Weir
Truman Heritage Habitat for Humanity

*Cheers for
Success!*

**WE ARE SO 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.**

WELCOME

New Chamber Members

15-24 Years - July-September 2025

Central Bank - 23rd St
Central Bank - Commercial Lending Center
Central Bank of the Midwest
Drumm Farm Golf Club
Jackson County Electrical Services Inc
Kiwanis Club of Independence
Lew Printing
McDonald's Restaurant - 18910 E US Highway 40

25-39 Years - July-September 2025

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

40-49 Years - July-September 2025

State Farm Insurance, Blake Roberson

50 Years Plus - July-September 2025

Cable-Dahmer Buick GMC
HEMCO Corporation

THANK YOU!

April-June 2025

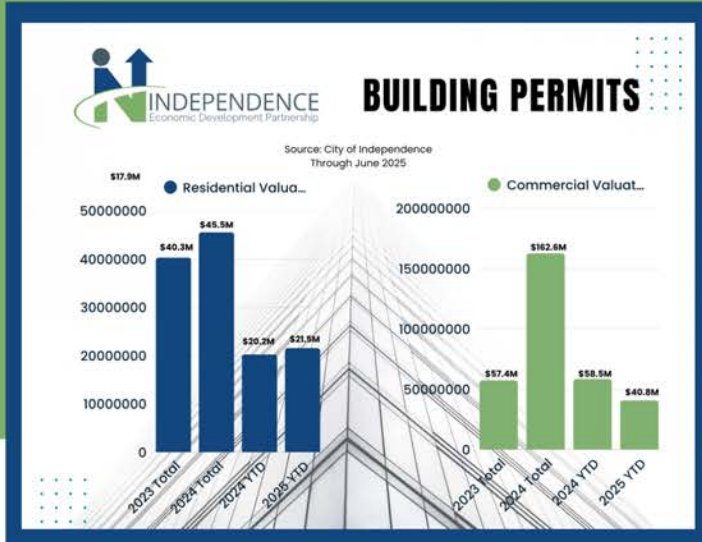
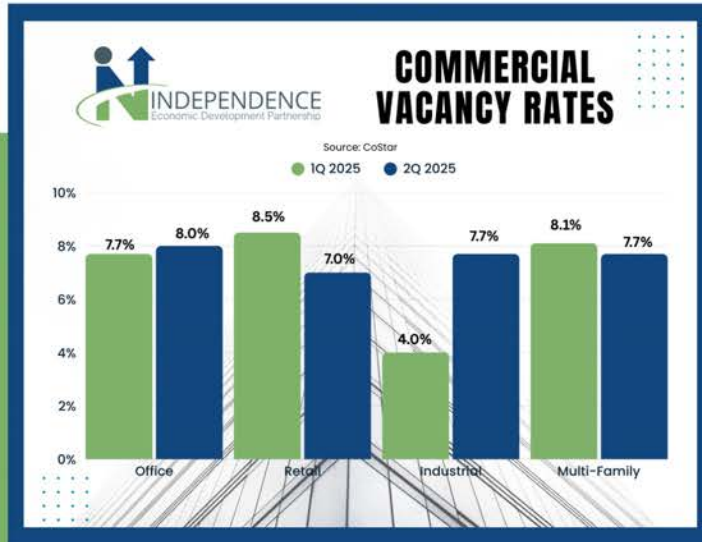
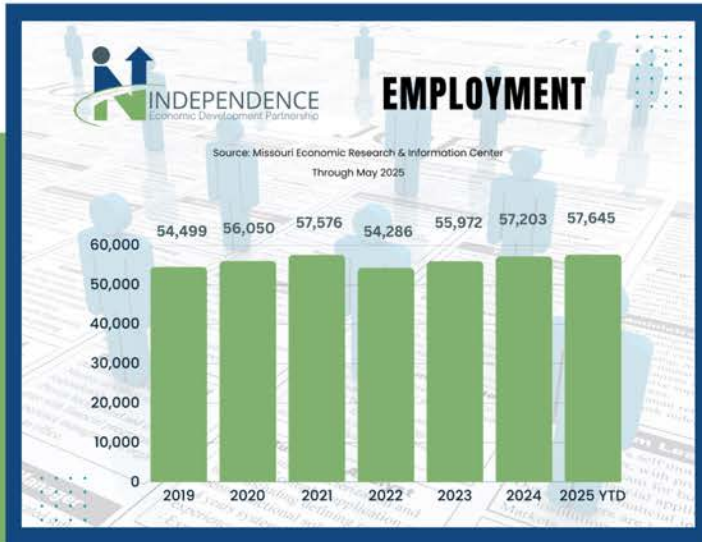
Alive Church Inc
Distinguished Body Art LLC
Edward Jones, Todd LeSage
Friends of Englewood Theater
MotzArc Electric
Shelter Insurance
Sam Digiovanni Agency
Thomas Automotive LLC
VaughanFire Solutions

FOR MORE INFO ABOUT THESE BUSINESSES
& ALL CHAMBER MEMBERS VISIT THE
CHAMBER DIRECTORY

WWW.BUSINESS.ICHAMBER.BIZ/DIRECTORY

SCAN QR CODE
FOR THE
DIRECTORY





FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INQUIRIES CONTACT

Jarvis Sackman
 Director of Business Retention & Expansion
 Independence Economic Development Partnership
 Email: jarvis@ichamber.biz
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Officers:

Doug Cowan
Chair
Community Services League

Mary House
Treasurer
Cruise Planners

Bret Kolman
Chair Elect
3.14 Catalyst

Yvonne Hall
Past Chair of the Board
Blue Ridge Bank & Trust

Ex Officio Members:

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

Dr. Cynthia Grant
Independence School District

Dr. Robert Jerome
Blue Springs School District

Tammie May
MCC - Blue River

Dr. Jason Snodgrass
Fort Osage School District

Zach Walker
City of Independence

Board of Directors:

Jeff Benson
Meritas Health

Patrick Farrell
NorthWest Communities Develop.
Corporation/Fairmount Comm. Ctr.

Charline Gray
The Cleaning Crew KC

Angie Judy
McClain Brothers Real Estate

Eric Knipp
i360 Insurance, LLC

JJ Kuntz
Stoney Creek Hotel & Conf. Center

Christina Leakey
Truman Habitat for Humanity

Cindy McClain
McClain Companies

Jeff McLaughlin
Corporate Copy Print

Dan O'Neill
Reece & Nichols Realtors

Cindi Rogers
Independence Square Association

Alicia Scott
Alicia Scott State Farm Agency

Kenny Soule
Asphaltic Surfaces

Terri Steele
Evans & Steele Financial, L.L.C.

Susan Wray
Mid-Continent Public Library

Jonathan Zerr
Kapke & Willerth, L.L.C.

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

YOUR BUSINESS COULD BE OUR MEMBER OF THE MONTH!

Nominate your business to be our Member of the Month!

Each month, we'll randomly select
ONE lucky winner on Good
Morning Monday!

IT'S YOUR TIME TO SHINE!

IT'S EASY
TO APPLY

SCAN CODE TO
APPLY



Leadership

Quote of the Quarter

“We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”

~ Thomas Jefferson ~



OUR BUSINESS IS BUSINESS

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



Caught on Camera