



Community Growth



Business Networking



Member News



Jefferson City Area Chamber of Commerce

CHAMBER TODAY

Serving the Community Since 1893
www.jcchamber.org

Fourth Edition 2024 December 11, 2024

INSIDE CHAMBER TODAY

- Partners in Educationpg 2
- Leadership Jefferson City pg 2
- Pitch It & Win It Winnerspg 2
- Government Relations Committeepg 2
- Member Newspg 2
- Welcome New Memberspg 5
- Young Professionalpg 5
- Business & Leadership Summitpg 6
- Small Business & Employee Award Winnerspg 6
- Chamber Connectionspg 6

NETWORKING CALENDAR



- Chamber Connections**
3rd Thursday of each month
(Rotates Chamber Member Restaurant & Bars)
4:00-5:30 pm
 - Friday Coffee**
2nd Friday every month
9am at Chamber & ZOOM
 - Young Professionals (YP) Monthly Meeting**
1st Thursday of each month
11:30 am
 - YP Final Friday Coffee**
7:30 am, Coffee Zone
 - YP 2nd Tuesday Happy Hour**
4-6 pm, TBD
- Check the Chamber's website for more information:
www.jcchamber.org

Building a more inclusive and sustainable Chamber and community



Gaye Suggett
Ameren Missouri
2024 Chamber Chair

As we enter this beautiful time of the year, it is a great opportunity to reflect and be grateful. There are so many people that said "yes" this past year and helped the Chamber place renewed focus on the value received by our members. I am grateful to each and every one!

Hundreds of Chamber volunteers gave of their time this past year to help us reach our strategic goals. Two of those strategic pillars on which we focused were inclusion and sustainability.

Our first annual Women's Symposium on March 20 attracted more than 150 members and guests to Capital Bluffs Event Center. The event's theme was "Investing in HER – Managing the Journey." The purpose of the event was to empower women, to celebrate women and to help women be intentional in their career and life journey. My thanks to Lauren Carter with SBDC at Lincoln University for partnering with Ameren and many other terrific sponsors and volunteers to make the event a success.

The success of that event prompted organizers to launch WomenConnect in early November, which has already attracted more than 90 members and made the Chamber more inclusive than ever. Renee Duenckel, Jefferson Bank and Kyerra

Johnson, We Speak Foundation said "yes" to chairing WomenConnect and have scheduled a kick-off with a Mix & Mingle on January 8th. There will be quarterly events in 2025 including the second annual Women's Symposium on March 19 at Missouri Special Olympics.

Even though the Chamber was already offering many opportunities for our members, we wanted to offer more. We put a renewed emphasis on engaging new Chamber members through our Chamber Champions. Kitrina Tinnin, Central Bank, and Trisha Barnes, Mid America Bank, co-chaired a group of Chamber volunteers who are making personal outreach to new members to encourage their involvement in the organization.

I also want to touch on the Chamber's other strategic pillars. To better serve small business, we created a Small Business Network that provided training and peer networks. Our advocacy efforts included a more aggressive Local Government Agenda, which you can read about on page 3 of this edition. We continued to emphasize talent through our Workforce Coalition, including a \$30,000 digital talent recruitment campaign targeting the St. Louis and Kansas City metro areas.

On December 5, we gathered to commemorate a major restoration project within the Chamber building. We thanked major donors like the Naught family, Scruggs Family and Sam and Linda Bushman for making our \$200,000 capital campaign successful. More than 50 other members and individuals stepped up to support the "Venture Boldly" campaign to breathe new life into the

Chamber building we have occupied since 1976. Our thanks go out to everyone involved.

Finally, I want to personally

thank a very dedicated Chamber staff who makes everything come to together. It's their work and our many public/private partner-

ships that helps make our Chamber and community stronger and better each day. Thank you! I am truly grateful!!



Bryan McGraw, Jefferson City School District
Luke Holtzschneider, JCREP
Dawn Sweazea, Office of Administration

Chamber Board Charts 2025 Course at Retreat

Chamber Board members, staff and guests heard updates on workforce development issues from a panel of local and state leaders at the Chamber's October 29 retreat. Panelists included (l-r) Presiding Commissioner Sam Bushman, Lincoln University President Dr. John Moseley, JCREP CEO Luke Holtzschneider, State Director of Talent Acquisition Dawn Sweazea, Jefferson City Schools Superintendent Bryan McGraw and Mayor Ron Fitzwater.



New members and their sponsors gathered for a photograph at the Chamber Board retreat on October 29. Pictured in the front row are (l-r) Chamber Chair Gaye Suggett, Ameren; John and Natalie Walker, Towne Grille; Anastacia Ferguson, Rise Up Foundation; Sam Porter, SPworks, LLC; Raylene Duckworth, Mobile Gaming Entertainment; Sherit Hudson, Hand N Hand LLC; Doug Wright III, Hand Up Used Auto Sales; and Lakaisha Sutherland, Joy & Gladness Children's Academy. Scholarship sponsors pictured in the second row are (l-r) Ken Theroff, Central Bank; Tammy Chute, Scholastic; Tim Hitt, 1st Mid Bank & Trust; Paula Benne, C & S Employment Services; Brandy Bryant, Jefferson Bank; Kevin Schwarzer, Hawthorn Bank; and Carl Sweezer, Mid America Bank. Additional new members not pictured include Johnson Barber & Beauty, NIVEL UP Services, Start Now Academy and The Poise Brand. Another sponsor not pictured is Legends Bank. This is the second consecutive year the Chamber and sponsors have provided membership scholarships for one year to minority owned business and nonprofits as part of the Chamber's inclusion strategy.

Chamber Elects New Board Officers for 2025

Six new directors were elected by the membership to the Chamber's Board of Directors in October.

Joining the Board for three-year terms were: Jackie Coleman, Coleman & Associates; Chris Ebright, N.H. Scheppers Distributing Co.; Denny Hamilton, MU Health – Capital Region Medical Center; Chris Schneider, Williams Keepers LLC, CPA; Dr. Treaka Young, State Fair Community College; Curtis Goben, The Architects Alliance.

Additional new directors in 2025 will be Ex-Officio directors:

Renee Duenckel, WomenConnect; Michael Huber, Young Professionals; Justin Parker, Leadership Jefferson City.

The Board also elected 2025 officers at its November meeting, including:

Chair, Ken Theroff, Central Bank; Chair-Elect and Treasurer, Brandy Bryant, Jefferson Bank; Treasurer-Elect, Chris Schneider, Williams-Keepers, LLC, CPAs; At-Large Member, Tammy Chute, Scholastic; At-Large Member, Carlos Graham, Lincoln University; At-Large Member, Ashley Varner, Hitachi Energy.



Jackie Coleman



Chris Ebright



Denny Hamilton



Chris Schneider



Dr. Treaka Young



Curtis Goben



Renee Duenckel



Michael Huber



Justin Parker



Ken Theroff



Brandy Bryant



Chris Schneider



Tammy Chute



Carlos Graham



Ashley Varner



Cole County Communities Committee hosts 45th Annual Prayer Breakfast

The Cole County Communities 45TH Annual Prayer Breakfast held on November 27 gathered nearly 300 attendees at the Missouri Farm Bureau. The Chamber was honored to have Governor-Elect Mike Kehoe deliver the keynote speech this year. Many of our members tell us the Prayer Breakfast is one of their favorite Chamber events of the year as it kicks off the holiday season on the day before Thanksgiving. Special thanks to Presenting Sponsor, Legends Bank and Program Sponsor Senator Mike Bernskoetter.



Pitch It & Win It Crowns Three Winners

The StartUp Jefferson City committee and the Small Business Development Center at Lincoln University hosted the 13th Annual Pitch It & Win It competition on October 24. Eight entrepreneurs were offered the opportunity to pitch their business ideas for a chance at winning a \$5,000 cash prize to support future growth plans. At the Chamber's Business Summit, StartUp Jefferson City and SBDC at Lincoln University, competition sponsor, announced three winners for the annual Pitch It & Win It competition.

Thirty local entrepreneurs submitted their pitch applications and participated in a one-on-one prescreening meeting with Lauren Carter, Center Director for SBDC at Lincoln University and Ashley Temme, Program Manager for the Jefferson City Chamber. The prescreening meetings offered counselors an opportunity to vet each business and/or business idea, and afforded counselors an opportunity to share their insight.

From this juncture, the StartUp JC committee selected eight teams of entrepreneurs and invited them to make their business pitch

to a panel of judges. Each of the pitch participants provided a detailed synopsis of their business plan, accompanied by a visual (PowerPoint) overview, all of which addressed seven specific criteria points consistent with a business plan outline – Problem, Solution, Market Opportunity, Business Model, Competition and Sustainable Advantage, Management Team, and Financial Outcomes.

The judges were so impressed with all the pitch presentations and found it very difficult to select just one winner. Lauren Carter with SBDC at Lincoln University made the final decision to crown three winners. First place winner received \$5,000 with second place winners receiving \$2,500 each.

First place winner – Fizzy Pop Tap Truck, LLC (Jordyn Gilliam)

Fizzy Pop is an event hoping mobile tap truck that offers cold beverages to serve and sell.

Second place winner – Benne's Bees (Jennifer Benne)

Benne's Bees produces family grown honey and Beeswax Products.

Second place winner –

Ellie's Critter Corral (Kaitlyn Bode)

Ellie's Critter Corral is an animal boarding facility offering great customer service with a fun, low-stress boarding environment for your furry loved ones.

Runner-up Pitch Participants:

- Benne's Bees - Dr. Jennifer Benne
- CooCoo Castaways – Courtney Mendez-Jones
- Eat Smart – Ben Fischer
- Ellie's Critter Corral – Kaitlyn Bode
- Fizzy Pop Tap Truck, LLC – Jordyn Gilliam
- Flowers on Phoenix, LLC – Amanda Keen
- Hand Up Used Auto Sales – Romelle Blackmon
- O.T. Trucking & Transportation - Otis Jackson

As StartUp Jefferson City moves past the Pitch It & Win It event, the group continues to provide support to each pitch participant and to anyone seeking professional business counseling. If you or someone that you know is considering starting a new business venture, there are several excellent resources available to aid at no cost. If you have questions, please contact Ashley Temme at ashleytemme@jcchamber.org or (573) 638-3590.

Applications Due for Leadership Jefferson City in 2025

Are you ready for an experience that is truly unique? Consider Leadership Jefferson City.

Leadership Jefferson City 2025 applications are now available to members of the Jefferson City Area Chamber of Commerce. The deadline to apply is January 8, 2025.

Leadership Jefferson City is an innovative community program developed by leaders of the Jefferson City Area Chamber of Commerce. The program is designed to identify and motivate emerging leaders, and to develop their potential for community leadership roles by exposing them to the opportunities, realities and challenges of our community. The program has been in existence since 1988.

Through an application process, 30 individuals will be selected to the 2025 class and then attend day-long, bi-weekly sessions over a multi-month period.

Each session will focus on a different sector of the community. Sessions are geared to provide participants with an increased knowledge and insight into the many functions and realities of life in our community. Session formats vary, but include such things as lively panel discussions, interesting field trips, knowledgeable speakers and group interaction. The topics of the sessions include diversity, technology, education, manufacturing, arts & recreation, local government, state government, media, health & wellness and volunteerism.

The Leadership Jefferson City application can be found on the Chamber's website, www.jcchamber.org, under the Membership/Chamber Programs tab. For more information contact Ashley Temme, ashleytemme@jcchamber.org.

We would like to thank the 2024 Leadership Jefferson

City session sponsors: Align Chiropractic Clinic, Ameren Missouri, Bartlett & West, Capital Region Medical Foundation, Central Bank, Compass Health Network, Farmer Companies, Forward Jefferson City, GFI Digital, Hank Vogt - RE/MAX Jefferson City, Hawthorn Bank, Independent Living Resource Center, JC Parks, Jefferson Bank, Jefferson City Medical Group, Jefferson City News Tribune, Jefferson City School District, Learfield, Lincoln University, Mid America Bank, Missouri Hospital Association, MU Health - Capital Region Medical Center, N.H. Scheppers Distributing Co., Scholastic, SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital, State Technical College of Missouri, The Growth Coach of Columbia, Unilever and Zimmer Communications.

If you're interested in sponsoring, please contact Gary Plummer, garyplummer@jcchamber.org.

Leadership Jefferson City Class of 2024 presents checks to Battle of the Brews beneficiaries

The Jefferson City Area Chamber of Commerce presented Outstanding Youth Leadership Awards to 31 students from area schools. This award was created to recognize students who display leadership qualities every day – qualities like honesty, integrity, dependability, respectfulness, and compassion.

Representatives from their Chamber business partners

made the award presentations to the students. Recipients received a certificate, a medallion, and a cash prize.

Congratulations to these Leadership Jefferson City Class of 2024 presents checks to Battle of the Brews beneficiaries

On September 26, the Leadership Jefferson City Class of 2024 presented checks to the two benefiting charities from the 8th Annual

Battle of the Brews. The two charities were: Special Learning Center and Boys and Girls Club of Jefferson City. Leadership Jefferson City Class of 2024 raised a total of \$32,280. The amount of \$16,140 was donated to both beneficiaries.

Representatives from the two local charities along with members of the Leadership Jefferson City Class of 2024 are pictured below.



JCSD Superintendent McGraw Presents Update to Partners in Education Business Partners

Bryan McGraw, Superintendent for the Jefferson City School District, presented a school update to participating Partners in Education business partners during the program luncheon October 23 at the Chamber office. Interested in learning more about the Partners in Education program? Contact Ashley Temme.



Partners in Education
BRINGING BUSINESSES & SCHOOLS TOGETHER

Member News

YMCA HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTIONS

The Jefferson City Area YMCA recently held its annual meeting in conjunction with its monthly Board of Directors meeting. The Board of Directors elected Dale Amick of Jefferson City as its 2025 Chairperson of the Board. Other officers elected for 2025 include: Josh Wignall, Chairperson-Elect; Stephen Buchholz, Secretary; Carl Sweezer, Treasurer; Bev Stafford, Immediate Past Chairperson; Tim Sigmund, Member-At-Large.

Get in the Holiday Spirit with JC Parks this Winter!

Take a drive through the dazzling holiday lights synched to your favorite Christmas classics at the Home-maker Health Care's Capital City Festival of Lights, open now through Christmas Day in Binder Park from 6-9 PM (closed Mondays). Join Santa for a spin on the ice at the Washington Park Ice Arena on Saturday, December 14, from 1 - 4 PM (regular admission rates apply). Later that day, lace up your skates for the 27th Annual Speed Skating Championships, featuring talented racers from across the region. School calendars don't always line up with work calendars. If you're looking to keep the kids entertained during the holidays break check out JC Parks's Ho-Ho-Holiday Camp from December 19 through January 3, with flexible scheduling at The Linc and McClung Indoor Pavilion. Visit jcparks.com for all event details and registrations!

Will West Music and Sound Celebrating 21 Years of business!

Brisk Holiday sales are happening now! The Yamaha P-45 88 key weighted keyboard is reduced to \$399! Check the website and Meta (Facebook) page for other specials.

Become a Court Appointed Special Advocate!

Capital City CASA's next pre-service training class begins January 14, 2025. Visit https://url.avanan.click/v2/r01/___www.capitalcitycasa.org/volunteer/ today! Or call our office at 573-893-2272.

Helias Catholic High School Music Department Christmas Concert

The Helias Catholic High School Music Department will perform their annual Christmas Concert at 7 p.m. Monday, December 16, at Miller Performing Arts Center, featuring Helias Catholic's instrumental and vocal music students. This concert is free and open to the public.

Nicci Rexroat wins Cole County Woman Entrepreneur of the Year Award

The Missouri Women's Business Center held the 2024 Women Who Own It Awards on Friday, November 1, 2024, in the Kimball Ballroom at Stephens College. The Women Who Own It Awards honored eight outstanding women entrepreneurs from Central Missouri, each representing one of the counties that the Missouri Women's Business Center serves.

Nicci Rexroat, owner of A Place to Grow, received the Cole County award. Rexroat owns A Place to Grow, which operates early care and education centers in Jefferson City, Holts Summit, and New Bloomfield. She is a dedicated advocate for the childcare industry at the state and federal levels. Despite the challenges of recent years, Rexroat has expanded her business twice. She serves as President-Elect for the Missouri Association for the Education of Young Children.

"In my industry, recognition is rarely given, so to be considered and chosen for this award means the world to me," Rexroat said receiving her award. Rexroat was nominated by her peers and selected as winner by the Women Who Own It Advisory Committee for her business acumen and contributions to her community.

About the Missouri Women's Business Center

The Missouri Women's Business Center is a program of Central Missouri Community Action dedicated to providing small business development assistance with a focus on women, minorities, and low-to-moderate income-based entrepreneurs throughout Central Missouri. This is accomplished through coaching, relevant programming, training sessions, events, and continued support and resources to help entrepreneurs set and reach their business goals.

Open a Checking Account, Receive a FREE Gift!
Open a checking account, receive a FREE gift! If already a customer, refer a friend that opens a checking account and you both receive a

(Continued on page 3)

Chamber Board Sets 2025 Focus at October 29 Retreat



By Gary Plummer, President & CEO

The Chamber Board of Directors held its annual planning retreat on October 29 at Westhues Hall located on the campus of Jefferson Bank at 700 Southwest Boulevard. We heard a very stimulating panel discussion by local leaders and broke into small group discussions to drill down on the Chamber's strategic plan for 2025.

Gaye Suggett, Ameren, also presented a wrap up on major accomplishments from her year as Chamber Chair. Ken Theroff, Central Bank, discussed some key priorities for him as he takes over as Chair in 2025. Here are

some of the takeaways from the retreat that will set the tone for the Chamber's strategic pillars in the coming year:

Sustainability

- Create an investor relations system that includes an annual request for financial support from major Chamber supporters.
- Devote more resources to membership development and engagement through both volunteer efforts and paid staff.
- Enhance interaction between Chamber leadership and Young Professionals.

Talent

- Engage members and stakeholders in a proactive manner to advocate for growth in our area.
- Support soft skill training and additional internship opportunities at both the high school and college levels.

Advocacy

- Build the "bench" for civic leadership by encouraging businesspeople to serve on City and County boards and commissions.

- Play a leadership role in supporting key development opportunities, such as housing and the conference center.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

- Create more interaction and cross promotion between the Chamber and Minority Business Council.
- Enhance engagement by Lincoln University students and staff in the Chamber and Young Professionals.

Small Business

- Expand peer group discussions and mentoring opportunities.
- Partner with other resource providers to offer a Small Business Bootcamp program.

The Chamber is proud of our progress in 2024 and looking forward to another dynamic year in 2025. Please reach out to me if you'd like to be more engaged in the Chamber and our mission to promote economic vitality for the Jefferson City area.



City Council members meet with Government Relations Committee

Newly-elected members of the City Council were invited to meet with the Government Relations Committee (GRC) on November 1 at the Chamber. Pictured above are (l-r) GRC member Larry Keating, ReMax, Council Member Chris Leuckel and Council Member Mackenzie Job. Joining the meeting via Zoom was Dr. Treaka Young, Council Member. Logan Gratz, Gratz Real Estate & Auctioneering, moderated the discussion and reviewed a draft version of the Chamber's Local Government Agenda.

Chamber adopts 2025 Local Government Agenda

The Chamber Board of Directors adopted a Local Government Agenda at its November 19 meeting. The agenda includes a number of local projects and priorities that were compiled by both

the Government Relations Committee, chaired by Logan Gratz, Gratz Real Estate & Auctioneering, and the Transportation Committee, chaired by Bob Gilbert, Bartlett & West.

Please review the agenda below. If you have questions or suggestions, please reach out to Gary Plummer, President & CEO, at garyplummer@jccchamber.org.

Help us grow JCMO!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE. LET'S GROW TOGETHER!

JCMOLIVEGROWHOME.COM

Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube icons.

JCMO LIVE GROW HOME.

Chamber and City Launch Digital Marketing Campaign

The Chamber and City of Jefferson are partnering on a digital marketing campaign that targets prospective talent in the St. Louis and Kansas City regions in Missouri and beyond. The \$30,000 social media campaign was launched in October and will continue through the first quarter of 2025. The talent attraction campaign is an ongoing project of the Chamber, City, Cole County, Convention & Visitors Bureau, Board of Realtors, JCREP and Jefferson City School District. Campaign metrics from the first month of the campaign showed more than 440,620 of impressions and 8,015 unique visitors to the www.JCMOLiveGrowHome.com website. According to Imagemark Marketing & Advertising, the campaign consultant, the target audience focuses on jobseekers in the Kansas City and St. Louis areas.

Member News Cont.

(From page 2)

FREE gift! Stop by any of Legends Bank's 11 locations or visit www.legendsbk.com to get started TODAY! Legends Bank is a community bank that has served Mid-Missouri for over 110 years. Legends Bank. Your Town. Your Bank. Member FDIC. Equal Housing Lender.

MU Health Care adds physicians and services in Jefferson City

MU Health Care is proud to welcome several new physicians and services. Dr. Tyler Alderson is a cardiologist who specializes in procedures that have not been previously offered at Capital Region Medical Center. Dr. Ebby Varghese is an expert in managing chronic pain in all parts of the body, including spine and back pain, fibromyalgia and headaches. Dr. Jeffrey Klott is the newest MU Health Care sports medicine/orthopedic surgeon based in Jefferson City. Dr. Aimee Lorenz, who is fluent in Spanish, is now seeing patients at the Pediatrics Clinic in Jefferson City with same-day sick appointments available. Capital Region Medical Center also has two new general surgeons, Dr. Drew Cox and Dr. Zachary Floyd, who offer robot-assisted minimally invasive surgical approaches to treat a range of conditions, including hernias, gall bladder and bile duct (biliary) disease, colorectal disease and breast disease.

Holiday Sales at Longfellow's

Great gifting options! Poinsettias, Christmas Cactus, Amaryllis & Paperwhites Dec 13 - Spend \$25 GET \$25 OFF next purchase! Dec 20 & 23rd - Kids Cookies with Grinch & activity \$10

Jefferson City Renegades kick off fundraising efforts with Trivia Night

The Jefferson City Renegades will kick off their fundraising for the 2025 season with the Annual Trivia Night February 22 at McClung park. Visit our website www.jeffcityrenegades.com now to get in on the early bird registration price. The Renegades will once again be providing affordable family fun at Vivion field starting in late May through the end of July. Look for our schedule release after the first of the year!

C&S Staffing Specialist Announces Retirement

C&S Employment Solutions Staffing Specialist, Sonnett Cagle, recently announced her intentions to retire effective December 24, 2024. Sonnett started her career with C&S Employment Solutions in 1999, and has served in the role of Staffing Specialist for over 20 years where she placed countless employees in a variety of job with a number of employers in central Missouri. C&S President Paula S. Benne stated, "Because of her dedication to C&S, our employees and client employers, Sonnett has largely contributed to the success C&S has experienced over the years. We can't thank Sonnett enough for all her hard work and loyalty and wish her all the best in her retirement."

Jefferson City's newest wellness spa

Located inside JCOMT alongside Dr. Tyler & Ashley Watson. Available services include IV therapy, red light therapy, grounding, and ion cleanse foot baths. Holiday gift cards are now available! Come check out our JC Healthy Holidays vendor event. December 7th from 10am-1pm at 616 E High Street.

ABLE Learning Center.com

ABLE assists adults in Cole and adjoining counties with reading and writing deficiencies. Its volunteers provide quality instruction that helps adults gain increased literacy skills to help alleviate illiteracy in mid-Missouri, ultimately improving the area's socio-economic level.

Captain Cash is hosting a book signing!

Captain Cash will be hosting a book signing on Saturday, January 11th from 9:30-11:00 in the Main Bank Lobby (700 Southwest Blvd). Stop by to grab a photo and an autograph from Captain Cash himself and grab the first edition of the new book series!

(Continued on page 5)

2025 Local Government Agenda



Downtown Parking

The Chamber supports local and state partnerships to address parking capacity and enforcement in the downtown area.

Development Opportunities

The Chamber supports local and state efforts to capture development and redevelopment opportunities in Jefferson City, including the following projects: MSP, conference center, sports tourism and the Truman Hotel site.

Housing

The Chamber supports a comprehensive strategy to stimulate the development of additional housing, both multifamily and single family, across the cost spectrum, in order to accommodate more population growth and workforce in the Jefferson City metro area. We also recommend the City and County invest infrastructure funds for water, wastewater and other services to stimulate more housing development.

Streamlining Planning/Permitting Process

The Chamber supports taking steps to reduce red tape and unnecessary delays in the local planning and permitting process in order to stimulate additional residential and commercial development in the area.

Lincoln University Funding

The Chamber supports full funding for Lincoln University, including Land Grant funding, in order to sustain and expand the university's impact on our area.

Childcare

The Chamber supports public/private partnerships at the local and state level to bridge the gap between childcare needs and existing capacity.

Transportation

The Chamber supports continued accountability and renewal of the City and County capital improvement sales tax. We support continued collaboration by the City, County and State to address major infrastructure projects like the High Street viaduct. We also support preliminary planning to identify potential solutions for the Tri-Level and Rex Whitton Expressway in order to accelerate the timeline for future improvements.

Broadband

The Chamber supports leveraging local, state, and federal resources to enhance broadband service in the Jefferson City area with the ultimate goal of providing high speed internet service to all.

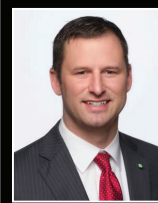
Missouri River Levee

The Chamber supports a federal, state, and local partnership to reduce the risk of flood damage and enhance resiliency through improvements to the Missouri River levee.

WE'RE READY WHEN YOU ARE

- FINANCIAL SUPPORT
- LOGISTICS
- CUSTOMIZED SOLUTIONS

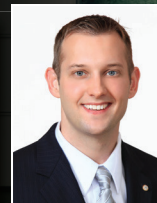
Central Bank's Commercial Lending Team



Daniel Toosley



Leslie Tanner



Pat McKim



WE DO BUSINESS BETTER. Ask us how at 573.634.1181.

centralbank.net Member FDIC

HIGH PERFORMANCE Wi-Fi DELIVERING SEAMLESS COVERAGE



Included in all Business Internet speeds, Advanced Wi-Fi features mesh technology that provides businesses with multiple access points, expansive coverage, and optimal performance. It's a secure and superior wireless connectivity solution designed to revitalize your workspace and take your customer experience to the next level.

Connect To Something Better

MEDIACOMSM BUSINESS

CALL TODAY 800-479-2091



Welcome New Members

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| <p>Absolute Roofing & Exteriors
Zane Ekholm
10412 N Ridge Rd.
Contractors - Construction Equipment & Contractors</p> | <p>Gentges Roofing
Brandon Gentges
1514 La Hacienda Ct.
Construction Equipment & Contractors</p> | <p>NCW Hair
Natalie Wittenberger
712 Jefferson St.
Beauty Salons/Spas - Personal Services & Care</p> | <p>The 62nd & 65th Regiments Legacy Foundation, Inc.
Sylvia James-Wilson
718 Lafayette St.
Family, Community & Civic Organizations</p> |
| <p>Adult Basic Literacy Education ABLE
Felicia Poettgen
308 E. High St Ste. 203
Education - Government, Education & Individuals</p> | <p>GOGO Charters Jefferson City
Alexa Thomas
6595 Roswell Rd. Ste. 5291
Car Rentals - Transportation</p> | <p>NEXA Mortgage
Amanda Berendzen
934 Moreau Dr.
Real Estate Services - Real Estate, Moving & Storage</p> | <p>The Barking Garage
Lawrence Woods
1815 Bassman Rd.
Pets - Pets & Veterinary</p> |
| <p>Advantage Home Care
Donna Nolke
1011 Southwest Blvd.</p> | <p>Google Fiber
Rachel Merlo
908 Broadway Blvd.
Public Utilities & Environment</p> | <p>NextGen Under 30 Foundation
Donald Swift
3240 West Briton Rd.
Public Relations - Advertising & Media, Education - Government, Education & Individuals</p> | <p>The Guided Key
Bethany Noble
410 Hart St
Holistic Health - Health Care</p> |
| <p>Akshar International LLC DBA International Wines
Bhart Patel
3702 W. Truman Blvd. Ste. 205
Liquor Store - Restaurants, Food & Beverages</p> | <p>Greg Meeker
5807 Cherish Ct.
Government, Education & Individuals</p> | <p>Nichole Manner, Photographer, LLC
Nichole Manner
321 Timber Creek Dr.
Photographers/Photo Finishing/Framing - Shopping & Specialty Retail</p> | <p>The Krazy Krepe
Susan Elliott
5815 Pebble Creek Dr.
Food Truck, Catering</p> |
| <p>Ann Bax
516 Boonville Rd.
Government, Education & Individuals</p> | <p>Hand N Hand LLC
Health Care</p> | <p>The Missouri Coalition for Primary Health Care dba Missouri Primary Care Association
Joe Pierle
3325 Emerald Ln, Ste. B
State Association</p> | <p>The Poise Brand
Khara Brown
1630 E. Miller St.
Consultants - Business & Professional Services</p> |
| <p>BerryDunn
Divyakumar Arulsamy
2030 Trenton Ct.
Consultants - Business & Professional Services</p> | <p>Hand Up Used Auto Sales
Doug Wright III
1600 E. McCarty St.
Transportation - Automotive</p> | <p>NIVEL UP Services LLC
Insurance - Finance & Insurance</p> | <p>The Missourianik Corporation dba Play It Again Sports
Philip Minarik
2525 Missouri blvd. Suite A
Clothing/Shoes - Shopping & Specialty Retail, Sporting Goods - Sports & Recreation</p> |
| <p>CaTS Consulting, LLC
Laura Vedenhaupt
1014 Moreau Dr.
Education - Government, Education & Individuals</p> | <p>Heal & Renew Holistics LLC
Allye Simmons
1006 Dave Dr.
Holistic Health - Health Care</p> | <p>Osage Ambulances
Kyle Shimmens
194 County Rd. 302
Medical Supply - Health Care</p> | <p>Tiny Fins Survival Swim
Courtney Mantle
405 E Main St.
Fitness - Sports & Recreation</p> |
| <p>Cold Cocked Frozen Liqueurs
Angela Santarelli
222 E. High St.
Liquor Store - Restaurants, Food & Beverages</p> | <p>High Street Auto Repair
Peggy Belt
831 E High St.
Automotive - Automotive & Marine</p> | <p>PNMinarik Corporation dba Play It Again Sports
Philip Minarik
2525 Missouri blvd. Suite A
Clothing/Shoes - Shopping & Specialty Retail, Sporting Goods - Sports & Recreation</p> | <p>Tommy Feist - Farmers Insurance
Tommy Feist
1803 Sun Valley Dr.
Insurance - Finance & Insurance</p> |
| <p>Cole County Mizou Alumni Association
Caroline Boeger
507 Pheasant Run Rd.
Community Organizations - Family, Community & Civic Organizations</p> | <p>Hope for Caribbean Kids, Inc.
Lacey Pratt
101 Riverwood Dr.
State Association</p> | <p>Raising Cane's
Amanda McBride
2333 Missouri Blvd
Restaurants - Restaurants, Food & Beverages</p> | <p>Towne Grill
John Walker
315 Jefferson St.
Restaurants, Food & Beverages</p> |
| <p>Community Christian Church
Alan Bailey
409 Ellis Blvd.
Churches - Religious Organizations</p> | <p>JCOMT
Ashley Watson
616 E High St
Hospitals & Clinics - Health Care</p> | <p>Red Ox Distillery, LLC
Hunter Smith
29089 N. Strineytown Rd.
Business & Professional Services, Liquor Store - Restaurants, Food & Beverages</p> | <p>UCP Heartland
Vickie Culpepper
1719 Southridge Dr.
Business & Professional Services</p> |
| <p>Daphne's Delights LLC
Daphne Denich
209 W Forest Ct
Restaurants - Restaurants, Food & Beverages</p> | <p>Johnson Barber & Beauty
Steve Johnson
617 Marshall St.
Beauty Salons/Spas - Personal Services & Care</p> | <p>Ramona Huckstep
698 Halifax Rd.</p> | <p>United Capital City SC
Thomas Chapman
PO Box 1001
Fitness - Sports & Recreation</p> |
| <p>Deb Brown
319 Ash St.
Government, Education & Individuals</p> | <p>Johnston & Associates Inc.
Patricia Churchill
904 West Main St.
Attorneys - Legal</p> | <p>Stained Glass Theatre Mid Missouri
Curtis Treat
830 E High Suite D
Community Organizations - Family, Community & Civic Organizations</p> | <p>V&A Photo Booth
Oscar Nava
1816 Dumas Dr.
Photographers/Photo Finishing/Framing - Shopping & Specialty Retail</p> |
| <p>Dreams to Reality and Resale Boutique
Shopping & Specialty Retail</p> | <p>K9's on the Front Line
Jason Howe
Family, Community & Civic Organizations</p> | <p>SPWorks, LLC
Samuel Porter, Jr.
827 Winston Ct.
Landscaping - Home & Garden</p> | <p>Versa Government Strategies, LLC
Jon Hensley
1204 Moreau Dr.
Legislative Lobbyist</p> |
| <p>Dust and Shout
Tanya Burton
1755 Woodcliff Dr., Ste. 202
Cleaning Services - Personal Services & Care</p> | <p>Kurtis Ashley Agency
Kurtis Ashley
1224 Creek Trail Dr., Ste. C
Accountants - Finance & Insurance</p> | <p>Starling Missouri
Erika Leonard
2046 Trenton Ct.
Community Organizations - Family, Community & Civic Organizations</p> | <p>Vision First Investments LLC
Stallone Watson
Financial & Investment Services - Finance & Insurance</p> |
| <p>Edward Jones - Christen Jones
Christen Jones
1007 Southwest Blvd.
Financial & Investment Services - Finance & Insurance</p> | <p>Lake Movers LLC
Barett Diver
109 Horseshoe Bend Parkway
Real Estate, Moving & Storage</p> | <p>Start Now Academy
Quincy Leverett
5022 Bagnall Dr.
Community Organizations - Family, Community & Civic Organizations</p> | <p>ZenBusiness
Sallie Clark
P.O. Box 33190
Consultants - Business & Professional Services</p> |
| <p>El Frison Mexican Restaurant
Jaime Ayala
2421 Industrial Dr.
Restaurants, Food & Beverages</p> | <p>Lehmen BBQ & Catering
John Lehmen
6827 McDonell Ln.
Food Truck, Catering</p> | <p>Sullivan Bank
Chris Schrimpf
2429 Hyde Park Rd.
Banks & Credit Unions - Finance & Insurance</p> | |
| <p>ElitePro Tax & Bookkeeping
Catherine Korelin
720 Madison St Ste A
Tax Preparation - Legal</p> | <p>Missouri Beer Wholesalers Association
Brad Bates
2305 Expressview Dr.
State Association</p> | | |
| <p>Friends of the Missouri Governor's Mansion
Tami Holiday
716 E. High St.
Government, Education & Individuals</p> | <p>Missouri Beverage Association
Willam Gamble
P.O. Box 1865
State Association</p> | | |
| <p>FXR Studio, LLC
Jennifer Schnieders
1739 Elm Ct., Ste. 205
Fitness - Sports & Recreation</p> | <p>Missouri Life Magazine
Deborah Marshall
PO Box 57 208 Columbia St.
Advertising & Media</p> | | |
| <p>Gateway Government Relations
Irl Scissors
903 West High St.
Legislative Lobbyist</p> | <p>Missouri Times
Scott Faughn
225 Madison St.
Advertising & Media</p> | | |
| | <p>Mobile Gaming Entertainment
Cory Duckworth
809 Arview Dr.
Sports & Recreation</p> | | |

Community Updates and Networking at Friday Coffee

Whether you attend in person or by zoom, you will learn a lot at Friday Coffee. Friday Coffee is a wonderful opportunity to introduce yourself and your business to other Chamber Members. It's also an opportunity for your business to gain exposure as a sponsor. Friday Coffee is held on the second Friday every other month at 9 am, so join us!



Pictured above (l to r): Sponsor Quinten Rice, JQ's on High and Door Prize Winner Angela Hirsch, Rape & Abuse Crisis Service.



Friday Coffee participants hear about State Fair Community College's new campus in Jefferson City

Friday Coffee was held Friday, October 11 at the Chamber and on Zoom. Participants learned about State Fair Community College's new campus in Jefferson City from presenters Dr. Brent Bates and Dr. Treka Young with SFCC.



Pictured above (l to r): Door Prize Winner Russchell Weaver, Cumulus Media, Sponsor Kerrie Bloss, Nothing Bundt Cakes. Door Prize Winners Carrie Spicer, EPIC Real Estate Group and Dr. Brent Bates, State Fair Community College.



Friday Coffee participants learn about WomenConnect

Friday Coffee was held Friday, November 8 at the Chamber and on Zoom. Participants learned about the Chamber's new WomenConnect from presenters Chamber Chair Gaye Suggett and WomenConnect Co-Chairs Kyerra Johnson & Renee Duenckel.



YP Hosts 4th Annual Membership Meeting

Young Professional's hosted their 4th Annual Membership Meeting Thursday, November 7 at First Mid Bank & Trust. YP Chairman, Michael Huber, reflected on 2024 activities and recognized Allison Owen as the 2024 Outstanding YP Member and Kevin Fick, Jefferson Bank, as the 2024 Stand Out Member. 2024 Retiring Board Members were also recognized for their service.



YP provides events designed to engage young people of area businesses and help them become more successful in the business field. YP membership provides the opportunity to gain positive experiences in professional development, community involvement, networking & fun!



Allison Owen
2024 Outstanding YP Member



Kevin Fick
2024 Stand Out Member



2024 Retiring Board Members

Member News Cont.

(From page 3)

Exciting Changes at Dogwood Realty Group: New Office & New Team Member

Dogwood Realty Group is pleased to announce the addition of Todd Tellman, Realtor®, to our team. His expertise and dedication align with our mission of delivering exceptional service to clients. In response to our continued growth, we are also expanding our operations and relocating to a new office at 3306 Emerald Lane.

Start Your Own Career / Trade School

CaTS Consulting specializes in helping clients start their own career or trade school in Missouri. The process can be confusing, so let us help you get your program certified and start enrolling students in the new year!

Prost Builders, Inc. is selected for the construction of the Air Traffic Tower for the Jefferson City Memorial Airport

A new \$10 million dollar traffic control tower will be constructed to replace a 51-year-old 'temporary' tower by Prost Builders for the Jefferson City Memorial Airport soon. The new tower will be a state of the art, 85 feet tall structure with a flood pad that will be 15 feet above the ground. The tower will have an electrical room, communications room, mechanical room, and restroom on the first floor, with the second floor occupied by weather system information, flight data, and instrument landing systems. The traffic manager's office will be on the third floor, and due to the efforts by Congressman Blaine Luetkemeyer, the project will be funded almost entirely by the federal government. Prost Builders is very excited to be an integral part of this important structure's construction for the Jefferson City Memorial Airport.

Fleet Feet Holiday Sales

Fleet Feet has a number of things on sale for the Holidays. Select shoes, apparel and select electronics on sale. Keep up to date on the sales on our Facebook page.

MidStates Energy- Here for Your Power Needs

MidStates Energy is proud to be your partner in power solutions. Serving businesses across the United States, we bring expertise in industrial and commercial power design, installation, and maintenance. With our dedicated team and commitment to reliability, we're here to support your energy needs every step of the way. We look forward to continuing our work together- reliable power, delivered with care.

(Continued on page 6)

YP Mid-Mo Summit offered full day of Professional Development and Networking

Special thanks for co-chairs Allison Owens and Joan Wilkes and the YP Professional Development Committee for hosted another successful event. Thanks also to the sponsors for their support: Presenting Sponsor - Jefferson Bank; Diamond Sponsor - Huber & Associates, Club Sponsors - Central Bank, Hitachi Energy and Mid America Bank; Space Sponsors - BARR Engineering, First Mid Bank & Trust, Coleman & Associates, PFS Brands, Scholastic; Social Mixer/Food Sponsors - Big Whiskey's, NH Scheppers, Nothing Bundt Cakes, Plate & Pour Coffee

Over 50 attendees benefitted from a day of speakers for personal and professional growth geared toward young professionals. The 2024 YP Mid-Mo Summit, Bet on You - Take the Chance, was held September 26 at the Missouri Soybean Center for Soy Innovation. Speakers and topics included: Daryl Smith, MU, Courageous Leadership; Amber Hall, PFSbrands, Marketing Yourself on LinkedIn; Kerri Roberts, Salt & Light Advisors, The Art of Self-Trust; Jesse Haller, Huber & Assoc., A.I. in the Workplace and Larissa Anderson, MU, Motivational Speaker.



Award Presentations held at Business Summit

The award winners for the Small Business of the Year and the Exceptional Employee of the Year and the winners of the Pitch It & Win It Competition were announced at the Business & Leadership Summit Thursday, November 7. Pizza Haus was named the 2024 Small Business of the Year. Jolene Mushrush with Jefferson Bank received the 2024 Exceptional Employee Award.

Congratulations to the Business & Leadership Summit Committee led by Co-Chairs Kevin Fick, Jefferson Bank and Trisha Barnes, Mid America Bank on a successful event. Participants enjoyed networking at the business displays and the award presentations. Special thanks to Rebecca Welsh, CEO and Found of HALO for providing the inspirational keynote message.

The Chamber's WomenConnect was also launched at the Business & Leadership Summit.



Pizza Haus
Laura & Matt Mertens



Jolene Mushrush
Jefferson Bank



Networking at Chamber Connections



Pictured above (l to r): Sponsor Randy Lueckenotte (far right), Acrisure and Sponsor Erin Hart, Zimmer present door prize; Chamber Buddies Winners Eileen Scrivner, Jim Logan Audio and Teresa Diotte, J.C. Optimist; Sponsor Barry Parsons, Water Tower Bar & Grill and Sponsor Kevin Hilley, Zimmer present door prize to Cole Oxley, Red Ox Distillery.



Chamber Connections was held Thursday, November 21. Chamber members networked and enjoyed the fun atmosphere at Water Tower Bar & Grill. Thank you to our sponsors: Acrisure and Water Tower Bar & Grill.



Pictured above (l to r): Door Prize Winner Virginia Steiger, Prost Builders and Sponsors Craig Dunn and Brandon Barnes, River Region Credit Union; Chamber Buddies Winners Beth Utrecht, Midwest Independent BankersBank and Jackie Coleman, Coleman & Associates; Sponsors Leann & Don Drury, Madison's Café and Door Prize Winner Donna Harden, Midwest Independent BankersBank.



Chamber Connections was held Thursday, October 17. Chamber members networked and enjoyed delicious appetizers at Madison's Café. Thank you to our sponsors: River Region Credit Union and Madison's Café.



Member News Cont.

(From page 5)

First Mid Insurance Acquires Mid Rivers Insurance

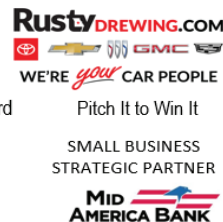
Mid Rivers Insurance has joined First Mid Insurance, expanding its reach and resources to better serve clients. This partnership combines decades of experience and a shared commitment to providing personalized, comprehensive insurance solutions. Clients will benefit from enhanced services, a broader range of products, and increased support from a larger network. The integration reflects a continued effort to offer trusted, local expertise with the strength and stability of a larger organization. Relocated inside of First Mid Bank – 815 W Stadium Blvd. Agent Joey O'Connor is ready to help you with your insurance needs.

Newly Opened

JCOMT is Jefferson City's premier Osteopathic and Direct Primary Care center newly opened in March of 2024. We are excited to bring a whole-person approach to the community! We offer Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine (OMT), an integrative approach to primary care, Alpha-stim (non-invasive treatment for anxiety, chronic pain, and insomnia), wholesale prescription medications, and a select variety of medical grade supplements for our patients. Our clinic has recently joined the chamber and we work with small community businesses to provide healthcare options for employees. Access, affordability, and working with patient values are our specialty!



PRESENTING SPONSOR:



Speed Leads Networking event huge success



The new Speed Leads Networking event held November 21 was a huge success with 23 members sharing business cards and giving a one-minute pitch about their business, product or an event.

Pictured above (bottom photo): Laura Laune, All-N-One / Longfellow's Garden Center makes her announcement.