



Community
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News



Jefferson City Area Chamber of Commerce

CHAMBER TODAY

Serving the Community Since 1893
www.jcchamber.org

First Edition 2025 Mar. 26, 2025

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NETWORKING CALENDAR



Chamber Connections
April 17, 2025
3rd Thursday of each month
Veit's Pub & Grill
(rotates Chamber Member Restaurants & Bars)
4:00-5:30 pm

Friday Coffee
April 11
2nd Friday every month
9am at Chamber & ZOOM

Young Professionals (YP) Monthly Meeting
April 3
1st Thursday of each month
11:30 am

YP Final Friday Coffee
March 28
7:30 am, Plate & Pour

YP 2nd Tuesday Happy Hour
April 8
4-6 pm, TBD

Check the Chamber's website for more information:
www.jcchamber.org



Chamber Maintains Focus on Housing, Childcare and Conference Center



Ken Theroff
2025 Chamber Chair
Jefferson City Area Chamber of Commerce

I'm excited for the Chamber's forward momentum as we move into 2025. I was fortunate to speak to more than 150 Chamber members and stakeholders at the Chamber Annual Meeting on January 21. Windstone Event Center provided a wonderful venue and meal for honoring Gaye Suggett, Ameren, for her year as Chamber Chair, and recognizing retiring board mem-

bers as well as six new, incoming board members.

One of the highlights of the meeting was when Gaye named Ryan Henry the 2025 recipient of the Chair's Award which goes to one volunteer who made the greatest impact on the Chamber overall. Ryan just retired from the Board of Directors after serving six years, including two years as treasurer. Congratulations Ryan!

Also in January, we were pleased to work closely with Governor Mike Kehoe's team on the Governor's Prayer Breakfast hosted on January 15 at Capitol Plaza Hotel. Compliments to Gaye Suggett for accepting that invitation, and props and many thanks to Susan Neill Dawdy of the Chamber staff for her personal efforts on the event.

We continue our focus on three priorities for 2025: housing, childcare, and the conference center. Gary Plummer, Chamber President, joined Paul Samson, Jefferson City Regional Economic Partnership, and others, who testified at the February 18 City Council meeting in favor of Savannah Place, a major housing development. Developers plan to construct 116 single-family homes and townhouses off Rainbow Drive in the northwest portion of our community. We appreciate the City Council voting unanimously in support of the subdivision, which is one of the biggest we've seen in recent years in Jefferson City.

In addition to housing, the Chamber continues to focus on supporting the availability of affordable childcare in

our area. Much of Missouri, including portions of mid-Missouri, are classified as childcare "deserts" which can be a serious barrier to fulfilling our community's workforce needs. The Workforce Coalition, the Chamber, and other public/private partners have been engaged in this issue through advocacy at the Capitol Building. We have also established local partnerships matching major employers with area childcare centers. We are optimistic about the movement on this critical need and expect 2025 to be a turning point for progress in this area.

Finally, we are actively working to share the vision of a new downtown conference center with our affiliate, Civic Progress, with our Board of Directors, and with our entire membership.

Mayor Ron Fitzwater, CVB Executive Director, Diane Gillespie, and JCREP's Luke Holtschneider and Paul Samson, made four presentations to key Chamber groups in March to outline the scope of the project and the resulting economic activity in Jefferson City. We anticipate more information pointing out the project's actual cost and funding, but we're confident in the ability of the team which has been working on it for nearly two years.

Look for announcements by Civic Progress and the Chamber in the next few weeks as the details of this transformational project are unveiled. Both Gary Plummer and I would appreciate your questions and feedback on the conference center proposal anytime.

132nd Annual Meeting Recognizes Chamber Leadership



The Chamber held its 132nd Annual Meeting January 21 at Windstone Event Center. Gaye Suggett (Ameren Missouri), 2024 Chamber Chair, was recognized by Ken Theroff (Central Bank), 2025 Chamber Chair, for her leadership the past year.

Thank you to the event's presenting sponsor Brock Lodde with Bright Speed. 2024 Chamber Chair Gaye Suggett recognized retiring Chamber Board members (pictured right l-r)



Lakeitha White (Scholastic Inc.), Adrian Heckman (Central Bank), Leslie Backstrom (The Architects Alliance) and Amber Brondel (United Way of Central Missouri). Retired Board officers were Andy Fechtel (Fechtels Beverage & Sales) and Ryan Henry (Williams Keepers LLC CPAs). 2024 Chamber Chair Suggett also recognized Susan Neill Dawdy, Director of



Membership & Special Events for the the Jefferson City Area Chamber of Commerce, for her hard work and extra efforts for more than 30 years, and for her true dedication to the Chamber. 2024 Chamber Chair Gaye Suggett presented the Chairman's Award to Ryan Henry (pictured right), Williams-Keepers LLC, CPAs. Ryan was someone who was always there to help with a smile on his face. When Ryan was asked to serve a year longer than anticipated, yes was the answer. Ryan supported sound financial management



and oversight and assisted Chamber staff with audit preparation and review. Ryan helped guide investment policy which gained the Chamber additional interest revenue. Ryan served 6 years on the Chamber Board of Directors and 2 years as the Chamber Board Treasurer. Ryan is truly deserving of receiving the Chairman's Award.



The Chamber Board along with staff members appreciate Ryan's dedication while serving the Chamber.

2nd Annual Women's Symposium was Huge Success with Sold Out Crowd



INVESTING IN HER
THE POWER WITHIN

The Jefferson City Area Chamber of Commerce held the second annual day long Women's Symposium presented by Ameren Missouri, held on March 19. The new larger venue located at Special Olympics Missouri, allowed for more women to participate in the event than last year.

The Women's Symposium focused on "Investing in HER - The Power Within." The purpose of the event was to empower women,

to celebrate women, and to help women be more resilient in their career and own life. Gaye Suggett, 2024 Chamber Chair, says "This successful sold-out event with 225 powerful women, was a day that women invested in themselves and focused on their boundless potential." The Symposium included keynote speakers, panel discussions, resilient stories, networking reception and much more! The keynote speaker was Kim Becking, Unstoppable Momentum & Best-Selling Author. To view great pictures and more access Facebook



#InvestingInHer2025.

Thank you to our sponsors: Ameren Missouri, Hitachi Energy, Whole Health JC, Inc., MU Health Care, SSM Health - St.



Mary's Hospital, Modern Litho-Print, KRCG, Lincoln University, Scholastic, Armstrong Teasdale, Williams-Keepers, Big Whiskey's,



Mid America Bank, DeLong's Inc., Fechtel Beverages, N.H. Scheppers Distributing, News Tribune, Jefferson Bank, Central Bank, Coleman &



Associates, and Zonta Club of Jefferson City. Our event supporters were Genesis MedSpa, Ready Popped, Schulte's, and U.S. Rents It.



State of Education set for April 23

The Chamber will hold State of Education at 11:30 a.m. April 23 at the Capitol Plaza Hotel. State of Education is taking the place of the State of the City & County which traditionally occurs every other year.

Presenting sponsors for the State of Education are Hitachi Energy and SSM St. Mary's Hospital. Co-sponsors include Morris Packaging, Unilever and MU Health Care. Dessert Sponsor, The Architects Alliance and Leadership JC Host Sponsor, Nabholz Construction. A portion of the proceeds will go to support the Partners in Education (PIE) program which has been co-sponsored by the Chamber and Jefferson City School District for more than 30 years. The PIE program includes more than 40 business partners and 30 school buildings at nine public and private school districts in our area.

The April 23 program includes two different panel discussions. Confirmed panelists from K-12 education include Bryan McGraw, superintendent at Jefferson City School District, Ron Vossen, president of Helias Catholic High School, and Ben Meldrum, superintendent of Blair Oaks R-II School District. In addition, a higher education panel includes Dr. John Moseley, president of Lincoln University, Dr. Shawn Strong, president of State Technical College of Missouri, and Dr. Brent Bates, president of State Fair Community College.

Tickets for State of Education are \$30. Sponsored tables of ten seats are \$425. Reservations can be made by contacting Lori Pitts at loripitts@jcchamber.org.

Leadership Jefferson City Class of 2025 Announced

The Chamber is excited to announce the members for Leadership Jefferson City's Class of 2025. Congratulations to all class members, including: Alloch Burton - MU Health Care, Curt Finke - Jefferson City Police Department, Dave Hagan - Ameren Missouri, Kari Hayes - State Technical College of Missouri, David Kemna - Central Bank, Austin Larsen - Job-Finders Employment Services, Jacob Lauer - Koelling Family Chiropractic, Amanda Laufenberg - The Varner Agency, Shauna Lenhard - Marco Technologies, Ashley Logan - State of Missou-

ri-MO HealthNet Division, Loreen Mall - Scholastic, MaKayla Newman - Jefferson City Medical Group, Ashley Peters - Hitachi Energy, Nicci Rexroat - A Place to Grow, Maria Richmiller - DeLong's, Inc., Jacob Robinnett - Nabholz Construction, Samantha Rush - MRA Construction, Rachel Schoolfield - Samco Business Products, Jon Smith - Scruggs Lumber, Joel Smith - Spartan Services, Tasha Stevens - SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital, Lori Stoll - Compass Health Network, Megan Thomas -

Leadership
JEFFERSON CITY
Class of 2025

State of Missouri-Office of Administration, Brian Vogeler - The Salvation Army, Blake Wilbers - Bartlett & West, Alyssa Wiles - Missouri Hospital Association, Kyle Williams - Northwestern Mutual, Ashley Wilson - State of Missouri Department of Social Services, Grant Winrow - Lincoln University and Ashley Wiskirchen - JC Parks.



Leadership Jefferson City Class of 2025 attended an all-day Kick-off Retreat March 6. The retreat consisted of presentations by Justin Parker (pictured above), 2024 Class Representative (Jefferson City Medical Group), Jessie Kwatamdia (The Growth Coach of Columbia), Ken Therooff, 2025 Chamber Chair (Central Bank), Gary Kremer (State Historical Society of Missouri) and Mayor Ron Fitzwater (City of Jefferson). Thank you to our sponsors: The Growth Coach of Columbia and Jefferson City Medical Group.



Leadership Jefferson City Class of 2025 enjoyed interacting with Special Olympics Missouri Athletes (pictured above) amongst learning about other volunteer opportunities within the community during their Volunteerism Session held March 20. Thank you to the session coordinators: Carol Griffin, Special Olympics Missouri and Lee Knernschield, United Way of Central Missouri and to the session sponsor: Central Bank.

Partners in Education Program Going Strong



Partners in Education

The Jefferson City Area Chamber of Commerce's Partners in Education (PIE) program currently consists of 27 schools, 11 childcare centers and 43 businesses (see full list below). The purpose of the PIE program is to support the collaboration between businesses, schools and childcare centers to provide programs that enhance learning and strengthen our local workforce. This program benefits children and participating businesses as well as our entire community for having engaged citizens, involved businesses and stronger schools.

Each spring, the PIE program recognizes a participating school and their business partner for their outstanding partnership throughout the school year. The program also recognizes children who display leadership qualities every day like honesty, integrity, dependability, respectfulness, and compassion. Youth Leadership Award nominations are selected by teachers and/or principals

from each school and are recognized at the school's end of year assembly.

Participating schools: Belair Elementary, Blair Oaks Elementary, Blair Oaks Middle School, Blair Oaks High School, Callaway Hills Elementary, Calvary Lutheran High School, Capital City High School, Cedar Hill Elementary, East Elementary, Helias Catholic High School, Jefferson City Academic Center, Jefferson City High School, Lawson Elementary, Lewis & Clark Middle School, Lighthouse Preparatory Academy, Mid-Mo Adult Education & Literacy, Nichols Career Center, North Elementary, Pioneer Trail Elementary, River Oaks Christian Academy, South Elementary, Southwest Early Childhood, Special Learning Center, St. Thomas the Apostle School, Thomas Jefferson Middle School, Thorpe Gordon Elementary and West Elementary.

Participating childcare centers: A Place to Grow, Apple Tree Academy, Capital Kids, Cole East Head Start, Early Explorers Preschool, Joy & Gladness Children's Academy, Kids Unlimited, Little Explorers Discovery Center, Stepping Stones Preschool, The Academy of Innovative Learners and YMCA.

Participating businesses: Align Chiropractic Clinic, Alpia of Jefferson City,

Bartlett & West, Inc., C & S Employment Solutions, Capital City Christian Church, Central Bank - Holts Summit, Central Bank, Cole County MU Extension, Community of Christ Church, Custom Promotional Branding, Engineering Surveys & Services, Farmer Companies, First Baptist Church, First Christian Church, First United Methodist Church, Hawthorn Bank, High 5 Communications, Hitachi Energy, Hy-Vee Food Stores, Jefferson Bank of Missouri, Jefferson City Autoplex, Jefferson City Medical Group, Jefferson City Police Department, Koelling Family Chiropractic of Jefferson City, Liberty Family Medicine, Lincoln University, Media-com, Mid America Bank, Mid America Bank - Holts Summit, Missouri Credit Union, Missouri River Regional Library, Modine Manufacturing, Morris Packaging, MSPE - Engineers Club of Jefferson City, MU Health Care, REACT / Jefferson City Area Board of Realtors, River Region Credit Union, Scholastic Inc., Servpro of Jefferson City, Southridge Baptist Church, SSM Health - St. Mary's Hospital, Unilever and Union Hill Baptist Church.

If your business is interested in becoming a partner, please contact Ashley Temme, ashleytemme@jcchamber.org or 573-638-3590.



Council Candidates meet with Government Relations Committee

Candidates for two contested races on the April 8 ballot appeared at a forum March 7 with members of the Chamber's Government Relations Committee. Laura Holloway, Missouri Municipal League (left), moderated the forum which was also attended by leaders of the Home Builders Association and Jefferson City Area Board of Realtors. The candidates included (l-r) Derek Thomas and Erica Choinka, candidates for the Third Ward, as well as Julie Allen and Kathryn Harness, who are running for the Fourth Ward seat.

Member News Briefs

Capital City CASA Trivia Night

Come join us on Monday, May 12, for a fun night of trivia at Last Flight Brewing Company! Doors open at 5:00pm, trivia begins at 6:00pm. Email cdcrane@capitalcitycasa.org to register or for more information.

Second Chance Employers

1 in 3 people in the United States have a criminal record. By not excluding people with criminal records the talent pool increases. Once a Justice Involved individual is afforded an opportunity, they are more likely to be an exceptionally loyal employee. Studies indicate workers with a criminal record are more productive than workers without records. The Work Opportunity Tax Credit allows employers who hire a Justice Involved Individual, within one year of release from prison, a tax credit of \$2,400 or more per individual. The Department of Labor offers 6 months of free bonding for the hiring of workers who have a criminal record.

Congratulations to Amy Rackers for 10 years!

"Dr. Slaughter and the rest of the team are proud to support Amy Racker's 10 year anniversary at Riverbend Dentistry! Starting as the sole front desk patient administrator, Amy now specializes in dental insurance and patient scheduling but is quick to jump in and help wherever it is needed. She was also a finalist for the Chamber Employee of the Year. Congrats, Amy! We appreciate you."

C&S Employment Solutions Expands Staff

C&S Employment Solutions recently expanded its inhouse staff to include Shaun Sappenfield as Business Development Executive. With a background in business development, Shaun is charged with expanding business with current customers of C&S Employment Solutions as well as developing new relationships and educating businesses and organizations about the services C&S offers and how C&S can assist with staffing needs and employee recruitment. He also serves as a backup for the C&S Staffing Specialists assisting with screening and onboarding employees.

Additionally, Mandy Thomas recently assumed the role of Staffing Specialist at C&S Employment Solutions. Mandy has been with C&S for 13 years and previously served as Account Representative/Recruiter and as a backup for both Staffing Specialists. She serves clients, employees and applicants in the industrial/labor sector.

Community Palm Sunday Donkey Procession

April 13, 9:00 AM, First Christian Church, 327 E. Capitol Ave, Jefferson City, MO, 65101 will host a Community Donkey Procession to celebrate Palm Sunday. Gather at the church at 8:45 AM to be in the group picture. The procession starts at 9:00 AM and processes around the Capitol. Donuts will be served at the Governor's Gardens on the return to the church. All are welcome!

Reveal the Teal Brunch

Support youth sexual violence prevention programs by purchasing a ticket or table to the Reveal the Teal brunch on April 19, 10am at Capitol Ritz Banquet Center. Honoring community leaders Angela Hirsch, RACS, and Doug Wright, III, Building Community Bridges.

Jefferson City FLASH Homeschool Track and Field Team to host regional meet at JCHS

On April 26th the Jefferson City FLASH homeschool track and field team will host a regional meet. The meet is expected to have over 400 athletes competing. Central Bank employee and Head Coach Matt Klumper started this team two years ago and has witnessed the team growth from 8 athletes in 2023, to 44 athletes this year. No admission or parking fees for the meet. Come out and enjoy a fun day filled with competition!

Missouri Businesses Invited to Support Local Classrooms

Are you a business leader looking to support Missouri teachers and students? The Bill of Rights Institute is a non-profit organization that teaches civics and history through high-quality educational curricula and programs. Through its Power of the Printed Word initiative, the Bill of Rights Institute makes free pocket constitutions available to civics and history classrooms. These portable booklets contain America's founding documents, including the Declaration of Independence, Constitution, and Bill of Rights. They are valuable educational resources that are in high demand among teachers every year. Missouri business leaders are invited to support Power of the Printed Word and may reach out to the Institute's resident Missourian, Cole Howerton, at chowerton@mybri.org for sponsorship opportunities.

Spring Approaches: The Salvation Army in Jefferson City Stays Committed to Serving the Community

As we eagerly anticipate the arrival of spring and the promise of warmer days, The Salvation Army in Jefferson City remains steadfast in its commitment to supporting our community during the lingering cold. Our cold cot program and warming station will continue to welcome individuals and families whenever temperatures drop to 32 degrees or below.

During this transitional season, we want to remind community members of the resources available to them. Our warming station is a safe refuge for those in need, ensuring everyone has a place to stay warm.

In addition, we are proud to offer free hot meals served daily, ensuring no one in our community has to go hungry. Join us for lunch at 12:30 PM and dinner at 5:30 PM - all are welcome!

Please spread the word! The Salvation Army invites all community members to take advantage of these services, whether for warmth or a hot meal. Together, we can navigate these chilly days with kindness, support, and solidarity.

For more information about our programs, volunteer opportunities, or how to donate, please contact us at 573-635-1975 or email melinda.jennings@usc.salvationarmy.org

Will West Music Celebrating 22nd Year in business!

New models from our vendors like Gibson, Fender, Martin, Taylor, PRS, Yamaha, and Roland, are sure to inspire your playing.

Check our Facebook page for happenings at the store or online at WillWestMusicandSound.com

Time for Catering!

JQ's on High is ready to cater your next event! We are here to help take the burden off of you, and take care of the food. We offer many service different options to fit your event AND dietary needs, so everyone can enjoy a meal together.

(Continued on page 3)

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Witnessing the “next big thing” at the Chamber

With a track record in this community that surpasses 130 years, it's not difficult to point to some pretty significant achievements that the Jefferson City Area Chamber of Commerce played a pivotal role in accomplishing. Like selling bonds to build the first toll bridge across the Missouri River in the 1890's. Or the significant industrial development progress made in the 1960-1980's including major employers like Scholastic, Chesebrough Ponds (now Unilever), Westinghouse (now Hitachi) and more. During more recent history, one can also point to some Chamber programming that has stood the test of time. Like the creation of the Partners in Education program in the 1980's, the advent of Leadership Jefferson City in 1988 and the creation of Young Professionals in 2009. All of those programs continue to flourish and make a huge impact on the culture of Jefferson City.

I believe that many of us saw the next great Chamber program play out on March 19 at the Training for Life Campus of Missouri Special Olympics. It was the date of the second annual Women's Symposium which attracted 225 women for a day-long program complete with inspirational messages and networking. Having just sponsored the inaugural Women's Symposium in 2024, it was no small feat to see the event's attendance grow by 50 percent in just its second year. The success of the Women's Symposium has also given birth to a new Chamber affiliate called WomenConnect. Since its launch in November of 2024, WomenConnect membership has grown to 148 members who will take part in regular programming in addition to the Symposium, which will continue to be its major annual event. Anyone who has witnessed the amazing growth of the Symposium and WomenConnect in the past year would



By Gary Plummer, President & CEO

point to one person who has been most responsible: Gaye Suggett, Ameren Missouri. Gaye made the Symposium and WomenConnect a huge priority during her tenure as Chamber Chair in 2024. Although Gaye built a pretty formidable committee to make the Women's Symposium and WomenConnect a success, every one of those volunteers would agree it has been Gaye's tireless leadership that made it possible.

Part of Gaye's legacy will be the new leadership she has recruited to help both WomenConnect and the Women's Symposium continue to thrive. We'll be telling you more about that leadership and how you can become involved in this exciting new program of the Chamber in the near future.

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!



Chamber members hear Mid America Bank Sport Complex presentation at Friday Coffee

Friday Coffee was held Friday, February 14 at Special Olympics Missouri and on Zoom. Nearly 90 participants heard updates on the Mid America Bank Sports Complex by presenter Tom Chapman, Executive Director for United Capital City.



Friday Coffee participants hear Conference Center Updates

Friday Coffee was held Friday, March 14 at the Chamber and on Zoom. Participants heard updates on the Conference Center by presenters Luke Holtschneider, Jefferson City Regional Economic Partnership, Diane Gillespie, Jefferson City Convention & Visitors Bureau and Mayor Ron Fitzwater, City of Jefferson.

Brown Promoted by Chamber



Ravae Brown was recently promoted to Executive Assistant at the Jefferson City Area Chamber of Commerce. Brown joined the Chamber as Administrative Assistant on May 2, 2022. "Ravae continues to assume more responsibility in her role at the Chamber," said Gary Plummer, President & CEO. Brown plays a key role in areas like workforce development, Board management, database management and financial reporting. "She's an invaluable team member and someone who doesn't hesitate to offer her support to others on our staff," Plummer added.

THANK YOU Friday Coffee Sponsor:



Pictured above (l to r): Sponsor Dr. Brent Bates, State Fair Community College and Door Prize Winners Gage Claas, Coyote Hill Jefferson City and Deb Buschman, Hollon Family Chiropractic.

THANK YOU Friday Coffee Sponsor: Ameren MISSOURI



Pictured above (l to r): Sponsor Lincoln Boschart, Ameren Missouri; Door Prize Winners Greg Drake, Superior Openings, Stephanie Lehmen, C&S Employment Solutions and Brad Loethen, United Capital City; Sponsor Lori Hoelscher, Ameren Missouri.

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Left to right – Marcia Lamons, Daniel Toosley, Pat McKim, Taylor Kirkweg, Leslie Tanner, Spenser Deeken, Matt Heinrich, Mark Schroeder, and Nick Peterson

Member News Briefs

(From page 2)

Get ahead of spring weeds

Effective crab grass and weed prevention must be done before soil gets to warm, usually around April 10th. We have time to get your lawn done. If you want to do your own, call us for advice. Our team at Ground Control Lawn Fertilizing, INC. has already done 600 lawns applications this month!

NOW offering DTV-STREAM

Spyder Technologies is now a dealer for DirecTV-Stream. No Contract. No Commitment. No Satellite Dish. ALL Local Channels. ALL Regional Sports. Access to ALL your Streaming Apps through one remote. Unlimited Cloud DVR Storage. Flexible enough to take with you to a VRBO or Lake Home. Contact Spyder Technologies for ALL of your TV needs, Satellite & Streaming.

Career and Trade Schools

Use your skills to train the next generation of welders, truck drivers, bookkeepers, and more! CaTS Consulting will help you through the regulations in starting a new career or trade school in Missouri.

Google Fiber Update - Construction is Underway in Jefferson City

Google Fiber has reached an exciting milestone in Jefferson City, Missouri – we are now officially under construction! Last February, Jefferson City Council gave Google Fiber (Gfiber) the green light to bring our cutting-edge fiber optic network to the Capitol. Since October, the Gfiber team has been planning the network build out and preparing to install fiber infrastructure across the city, and now the first neighborhoods are just months away from fast, reliable internet service. We anticipate connecting our first customers later this summer. "We've been bringing award-winning high-speed internet to communities across the country for more than a decade, and now Jefferson City will get to experience the Gfiber difference," said Rachel Merlo, Gfiber's Head of Government and Community Affairs in the Central Region. "We're grateful for the collaboration with the city and excited to officially be under construction building out our network in Jefferson City neighborhoods."

Want to be the first to know of any updates? Sign up for real-time updates or check out our website as construction continues throughout 2025.

This is just the beginning and we're excited to be building lasting connections in Jefferson City!

Captain Cash is hosting an Easter Egg Hunt at Jefferson Bank!

Hip, hop, hooray! Grab your Easter basket and get ready for a day of egg-citing hunt on Saturday 4/5 at our EXCLUSIVE Captain Cash Kids Club Easter Egg Hunt!

Mid America Bank Opens Branch in Columbia

Mid America Bank is excited to announce its new location in Columbia is now open! The branch is conveniently located at 4601 Stellar Drive at the intersection of Providence Road and Southampton Drive. Associates are ready to welcome current and new customers alike. The full-service branch features a comfortable, welcoming atmosphere with drive-thru teller windows, a drive-up ATM, night depository and is staffed with personal bankers and lenders for a one stop banking experience. The brand new, state-of-the-art branch in Columbia adds an eleventh convenient location for customers joining Wardville, Belle, Freeburg, Holts Summit, Jefferson City, Linn, Marys Home, Meta, Osage Beach, and St. Elizabeth. Established in 1914, Mid America Bank is proud to be a locally owned and operated community bank based out of Wardville. "We are extremely excited to announce the opening of our newest branch in Columbia, Missouri. It has been a long process, but we are thrilled with both the branch and the team that we have built in that market. We've had strong ties to Columbia for years, and now we're eager to better serve our long-time clients, welcome new ones, and contribute to the local community through this branch and team," says Steve Linton, President and CEO. The staff of friendly, reliable associates are ready and eager to serve existing and new clients. Among those include John Meyers, Branch Manager, Brad Roling, Market President – Columbia, and Brandon Kalista, AVP Loan Officer. As a proud community bank, Mid America Bank and its staff are committed to serving the Columbia community as a responsible and active corporate citizen. As such, the Columbia team looks forward to growing their community partnerships and involvement. For more details about Mid America Bank's Columbia branch, including hours, products and services, visit our website at midambk.com or call 573-998-8900.



Henderson Promoted to Assistant Vice President (AVP)

Mid America Bank is pleased to announce the promotion of Brenda Henderson to AVP. Henderson will also continue serving as the bank's Compliance Officer and Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) Officer. Henderson is responsible for developing, implementing, and administering all aspects of the bank's compliance management program to ensure the bank and its associates remain informed of and compliant with applicable laws and regulations. Additionally, as CRA Officer, Henderson oversees the bank's CRA program, including the development and implementation of programs that ensure the bank meets the needs of its communities.



(Continued on page 6)



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2025 YP Board Announced

Chair; Haley Johannpeter, Heisinger Bluff Retirement Community, Service Co-Chair; Trent Dudenhoeffer, Member at Large and Cody Seidel, Member at Large.

The Chamber appreciates them for their leadership and service to the Young Professionals group and our community. The YP group currently consists of over 230 members. The YP Leadership Board works with the Chamber to achieve its mission to make Jefferson City a place that attracts and retains talented young professionals.

YP provides its members with the opportunity to gain positive experiences in professional development, community involvement, networking and fun! For information about joining or for questions, contact Susan at susanneilldawdy@jcchamber.org.



Ryann Kampeter
Chair



Hannah Gerard
Chair-Elect



Michael Huber
Past Chair



Hannan Hansen
Treasurer



Tevin Townsend
Secretary



Cassie Stirewalt
Marketing Chair



Garrett Luetkemeyer
Social Chair



Manzell Payne
Sports Chair



Joan Wilkes
Professional Development
Chair



Jordyn Szwargulski
Professional Development
Co-Chair



Amie Hughes
Membership Chair



Lindsay Asel
Service Chair



Haley Johannpeter
Service Co-Chair



Trent Dudenhoeffer
Member at Large



Cody Seidel
Member at Large

YP Members Learn About Chamber Goals for 2025



2025 Chamber Chairman, Ken Theroff (Central Bank) and Chamber President, Gary Plummer presented the program on the Chamber Outlook for 2025 at the YP Membership Meeting in January.



YP Members enjoyed Speed Networking at the February Membership Meeting.

Small Business Network host Speed Leads, Lunch & Learn



Raylene Duckworth, Rise Up Foundation gives her one minute "pitch" about her organization at the Small Business Network Speed Leads event on February 28 at Mel's Diner.

Heber Mena, speaker and training with The Maxwell Foundations, presented a Lunch & Learn on Productivity on March 18 at the Chamber.



Welcome New Members

Derek Thomas
808 Troy Dr.

Little Leaf Essentials: Plant Shop & More
Andii Irwin
721 Jefferson St.
Agriculture, Fishing & Forestry

Mid-MO Legal Defense LLC
D. C. Kirshner
3610 Buttonwood Dr Ste 200
Attorneys - Legal

Respiro Spa LLC
Meredith Krueger
3702 W. Truman Blvd., Ste. 123
Beauty Salons/Spas - Personal Services & Care

Spartan Services
Holly Stitt
615 E Capitol Ave.
Business & Professional Services

Lunar IT
Jadon Bianchi
3708 Randall Drive Apartment C
Computers & Telecommunications

Great River Engineering
Michael Teel
630 Bolivar Street
Consultants - Business & Professional Services

Hope Heart Healing
Tiffany Steen
836 highway 42
Counseling - Personal Services & Care

Rick Lancaster Counseling LLC
Rick Lancaster
2616 Jennifer Dr.
Counseling - Personal Services & Care

B-Clean Laundry
Phillip Porter
1908 Missouri Blvd
Dry Cleaners - Personal Services & Care

Total Lending Concepts
Aimee DeLine
1931 West Main St., Ste. A
Finance & Insurance, General Level 1 - Number of Members

Argyle Catering Company
Ryan Davis
P.O. Box 65
Food & Beverage/Catering - Restaurants, Food & Beverages

Superior Openings
Greg Drake
1011 Industrial Drive Suite A
Hardware - Shopping & Specialty Retail

Travis Smith- State Farm Agency
Travis Smith
1005 Northeast Dr.
Insurance - Finance & Insurance

Ground Control Lawn Fertilizing, INC.
Dan Schmitz
4118 Horseshoe Bend Rd.
Landscaping - Home & Garden

Bodenhamer Eye Consultants
Bret Bodenhamer
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Optical Services - Health Care

Archer Professional Inspections
Aaron Archer
2401 High Point Rd
Real Estate Services - Real Estate, Moving & Storage

Kylie Boeckman Home Team- Re/Max JC
Kylie Boeckman
1503 Route Z
Real Estate, Moving & Storage, Realtor

Pete's Siding Supply
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518 Cheyenne Dr.
Shopping & Specialty Retail

Bottoms Up For Babies



2025 YP WINE COMPETITION

Benefitting the Capital City Diaper Bank



Thursday
3 April, 2025

Special Olympics Missouri
5:00pm - 8:00pm

\$50/PERSON
\$275 OFFICE PACK OF 6

includes hors d'oeuvres,
wine & bourbon tasting, a
take-home bottle of wine

SCAN TO REGISTER



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Networking at Chamber Connections



Chamber members networked and enjoyed the fun atmosphere at Bones Restaurant & Lounge on January 16. Thank you to our sponsors: Xstream/Bolt by Mediacom and Bones Restaurant & Lounge.



Pictured above (l to r): Sponsor Grace Teddy, Xstream/Bolt by Mediacom and Door Prize Winner Raylene Duckworth, Rise Up Foundation; Chamber Buddies Winners Kristen Dreher, Shelter Insurance and Stacey DeLong, Custom Promotional Branding; Sponsor Cindy McDaniel, Bones Restaurant & Lounge and Door Prize Winner Serese Smith-Haxton, MU Health - Capital Region Medical Center.



Chamber Connections was held Thursday, February 20 at Big Whiskey's. Thank you to our sponsors: Mid-MO Referral Alliance and Big Whiskey's.



Pictured above (l to r): Chamber Buddies Winners John Watkins, Mid-MO Referral Alliance and Tiffany Steen, Hope Heart Healing; Sponsor Michael Love, Mid-MO Referral Alliance, Door Prize Winners Beth Utrecht, Midwest Independent BankersBank and Emma Burnett, Fit Financial, Sponsor John Watkins, Mid-MO Referral Alliance; Sponsor Thom Mitchell, Big Whiskey's and Door Prize Winner Michael Love, Mid-MO Referral Alliance.



A large group of Chamber members networked and enjoyed the fun atmosphere at Courtyard Marriott on March 20. Thank you to our sponsors: Mid America Bank and Courtyard Marriott.



Pictured above (l to r): Sponsor Carl Sweezer, Mid America Bank and Door Prize Winner MaKayla Newman, Jefferson City Medical Group, Chamber Buddies Winners Kristen Dreher, Shelter Insurance and Teresa Dittie, Jefferson City Optimist Club, Sponsor Kevin Hilley, KAT Country, Sponsor Denise Smith, Courtyard by Marriott, Door Prize Winners Stephanie Lehman, C&S Employment Solutions, DeWayne Cartee, Jefferson City Renegades and Alan Mudd, Sponsor Kevin Hilley, KAT Country.



May 1
4-8 p.m.

Capital Bluffs Event Center
Great BBQ & Networking! Live Music, Beer Garden, Margarita Bar

Promote Your Business at the BBQ!
For Sponsorship information: susanneilldawdy@jcchamber.org

JC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BARBEQUE
BY THE *Bluffs*

Thank You Sponsors

Presenting Sponsor 	Beer Garden Sponsor 	Summer Prize Giveaway Sponsor 	BBQ To-Go Sponsor 	Entertainment Sponsor 	
Bourbon Tasting Sponsor 	Digital Media Sponsor 	Yard Games Sponsor 	Longest Putt Sponsor 	Media Sponsors 	Drink Cup Sponsor

Chamber Games Member Mixer was a Huge Success



Over 200 members played blackjack, bingo, golf, and bowled to win prizes donated by Chamber members at the second annual Chamber Games Member Mixer held at Strikers entertainment center on Thursday, February 27.

The number of Bowling Teams increased to 17 teams this year. Teams competed for prizes for best name, best dress and top score. Central Bank "Ally Oops" won the best name and dress. Nabholz and the HBA "Home Bowl-ers" earned top scores.

Thanks to the following participants:

Central Bank – "Ally Oops"
GFI
Gredell Engineering – "5 Star Safety"
Habitat for Humanity
Heising Bluffs – "Rockin' Bowlers"
Hitachi Energy "Voltage Vortex"
Kaiser Electric- "Electric Balls"
Nabholz Construction
The Architects Alliance
Beautiful Home Interiors
Custom Promotional Branding

JobFinders - Ally Cats
HBA - Home "Bowl"ders Association
KRCG
MediaCom - Team Xtream
Young Professionals - "Pins & Progress"

Special thanks to JC Parks/Oak Hills Golf Course for running the Longest Drive Contest where winners won a round of golf at Oak Hills. Mid America Bank ran "the bank" for raffle tickets and poker chips, C&S Employment Solutions ran the Bingo and River Region Credit Union announced the Raffle Prize Winners.

Other sponsors included the Food Sponsor US Bank; Bar Sponsors RMI and Veit's Grub & Pub; Bowling Lane Sponsors: Coleman & Associates, Kaiser Electric, Kristen Dreher Shelter Ins and Nabholz Construction. Blackjack Tables: Jeff Ahlers 1st Ward Councilman; KOMU TV; Keller Williams Leslie Davis and Renegades Baseball.

Thanks to the over 50 members donated products and services to fill 30 Prize Baskets!!

Member News

(From page 3)

Henderson earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Lincoln University in 2018. She joined the bank in 2015 and has been the bank's Compliance Officer since 2021 and CRA Officer since 2024. Henderson also earned a Certified Regulatory Compliance Manager designation in 2023 through the American Bankers Association.

Henderson resides in Wardsville with her husband where they are members of St. Stanislaus Catholic Church.

Mid America Bank would like to extend its congratulations to Brenda on this promotion. About Mid America Bank

Established in 1914, Mid America Bank prides itself on being a proud locally owned and operated community bank that's good for you and your community too! Visit them online at midambk.com.

SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital Host Free talk on Peripheral Arterial Disease

What is peripheral arterial disease (PAD)? It is a destruction of the inner linings of the blood vessels with layering of "plaque" in the arteries. SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital will host a free talk on peripheral arterial disease (PAD) on Tuesday, April 8 at noon and 4:30 p.m. To sign up, call 1-844-776-9355.

400 Employers and Missouri Governor Mike Kehoe to Attend State Tech's Record-Breaking Career Expo

State Technical College of Missouri is set to host its largest Career Expo to date, with more than 400 employers registered to attend. Due to high demand from industry partners, the event will be spread across two days, taking place on Tuesday, February 11th, and Wednesday, February 12th.

Adding to the excitement, Missouri Governor Mike Kehoe will kick off the event with opening remarks at 8:45 AM on February 11th in the State Tech Activity Center.

"With State Tech's growing enrollment, we are excited to welcome a record number of industry partners, all eager to connect with our talented students for employment and internship opportunities," said Shannon Grus, Vice President of External Relations at State Tech.

State Tech continues to solidify its reputation as The Employer's Choice, boasting an impressive 99% job placement rate for graduates. Governor Kehoe will meet with both employers and students who are poised to make an immediate impact on Missouri's workforce.

"The dedication of our faculty and staff has consistently prepared students to be in high demand upon graduation. This Career Expo further proves why State Tech is the top choice for employers," said State Tech President Dr. Shawn Strong.

State Tech also offers free lifetime career services to all alumni, who are also encouraged to attend the Career Expo and sign up for State Tech's exclusive online job platform. Available 24/7, this system allows alumni to manage job searches by major and receive real-time updates on career opportunities.

For more information about the event or if you plan to attend, please contact Brandon McElwain at 573-353-1979 or Brandon.mcelwain@statetechmo.edu

Balloon Twisting Now Available at Merrymaking Balloons

Fun and engaging Balloon Twisting Entertainment now available at Merrymaking Balloons! We're not just about twisting balloons, but creating unforgettable memories for corporate events, grand openings, charity events, and more. Contact us at merrymakingballoons.com to book today!

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