

CHAMBER CONNECTION

A Publication of the Salina Area Chamber of Commerce

May 2022 Volume 62, Number 4



AT A GLANCE Mark your Calendar!

Business After Hours May 5
Long McArthur, Inc.
3450 S. Ninth
5-7pm

Ribbon Cutting May 6
Revive Integrative Health LLC.
1130 E. Cloud St, Suite C
4:30pm

SculptureTour UNwrap Party May 7
Downtown Salina
11am]

Business After Hours May 19
Sunflower Adult Day Services
401 W. Iron
5-7pm

Ribbon Cutting June 8
Ironstone Wealth Advisors
1820 S. Ohio St.
4pm

Details inside!

**SculptureTour UNwrap -
- MAY 7** See pg 3

**National Travel & Tourism Week -
- MAY 1-7** See pg 7



Salina

Area Chamber of Commerce

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

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From the CEO



Eric L. Brown

May is always a busy month for your Chamber, especially the Visit Salina division. The month kicks off with National Travel and Tourism Week and that is an annual industry tradition celebrating the value travel holds for our economy, businesses, personal well-being and more. This sector of our economy is very valuable from both revenue/economic impact but also from the workforce and jobs the industry creates.

The Visit Salina division, much like the hospitality industry worked hard with local hoteliers, convention and meeting planners, Salina Airport Authority, and sports rights holders to make sure events and tournaments happened and were serviced properly. Sports events were the first to rebound and the hotel recovery numbers, by year end, were nearly back to 2019 levels. 2021 was also the first full opportunity Visit Salina had to promote in force the revitalized downtown that is a key piece of the larger effort to get visitors to the area. A big part of Salina as a destination is the Arts community; the Salina Kanvas Project completed the Mural at the Mill, which is quickly becoming an iconic image for Salina, and will continue to be a strong attraction.

National Travel and Tourism Week culminates with National Tourism Day on Saturday, May 7, 2022. We are celebrating by hosting the SculptureTour Salina UNwrap party in Downtown.! Sculpture Tour overall and this event is a partnership between the Salina Area Chamber of Commerce, Salina Downtown, Inc., and the Friends of SculptureTour; the Visit Salina division and our internal staff spend hours upon hours coordinating this program and related events all in the name of supporting commerce in Saline County and Salina.

Mark your calendars for May 7th to see all of the new sculptures and invite your friends and family to experience Salina!

Best,

Eric L. Brown President/CEO
Salina Area Chamber of Commerce

HERE'S HOW TO CONTACT OUR CHAMBER STAFF

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12th Annual SculptureTour Salina exhibit features 22 NEW sculptures

SculptureTour Salina will unveil the new 2022 exhibit during the UNwrap Party on Saturday, May 7. The 22 sculptures created by artists from around the country will be simultaneously unwrapped at precisely 11:00am. Everyone is encouraged to come downtown for the BIG reveal and bring the family and friends!

“We are very excited about the 2022 exhibit,” said Sylvia Rice, committee member of SculptureTour Salina. “The SculptureTour Salina 2022 exhibit is quite diverse, consisting of 22 sculptures from 19 different artists traveling in from seven different states. This year we welcome several NEW artists, which is a great success!”



hold on to your ballot and mull it over if you’d rather. Each year, the People’s Choice Award is determined by viewers who complete and submit a ballot through December 31, 2022. Voting is fun for ALL ages, with special promotions and contests for voters throughout the year. The winning sculpture is purchased by the City of Salina for an amount up to \$15,000, and permanently placed where it can be enjoyed by the public.

Be sure to stop at the plaza north of Ad Astra Books and Coffeehouse at 1:00pm where the 2021 Merit Awards, including Best of Show, will be announced – for the first time from the NEW stage!

Visitors are encouraged to pick up a Walking Tour/Ballot from the silver boxes at the mid-block pedestrian crossings, many of the downtown merchants or at the Visit Salina Info trailer located in ‘67401 Plaza’ – the parking lot north of Ad Astra Books and Coffeehouse at 141 N. Santa Fe. Then, walk the SculptureTour and vote for your favorite piece. Or,



“Butterfly Tree” being unwrapped in 2021. It was voted People’s Choice!

If you are a fan and enjoy having these changing exhibits of sculpture on loan from May-April each year, become a Friend of SculptureTour Salina. Donations made by Friends, plus the generous support of our Charter Sponsors, Site Sponsors, and Partners make this project possible. For more information, visit our website at www.sculpturetoursalina.net



The UNwrapParty is guaranteed FREE fun for the whole family! This year, [Salina Downtown, Inc.](http://SalinaDowntown.com) will present their “Spring Spritzer” to follow. It’s a great day to spend in downtown Salina!

For more information, contact Sylvia Rice at srice@salinakansas.org

Leadership Salina: BLUE TEAM Project Update

As weather continues to warm up, many are heading out to their gardens to begin this growing season. This year, the Salina Emergency Food Bank’s Community Garden has been equipped with a sustainable source for hydration thanks to Leadership Salina’s Blue Team.

The Blue Team procured rain barrels for the Food Bank and along with the help of Salina Area Technical College construction technology students, were able to get those installed last month to take advantage of spring precipitation. The barrels will be able to collect over 20,000 gallons of water in one season, which will not only nourish the Community Garden, but also conserve water and save the Food Bank money.

For more on this project and Leadership Salina, visit www.facebook.com/leadershipsalina.



Former Director Takes the Lead for Child Care Workforce Development

Leadell Ediger has been hired to lead a local grassroots effort that addresses workforce shortages in Saline County due to limited access to licensed, affordable, quality child care. Ediger is the former executive director of Child Care Aware of Kansas where she spent 30 years advocating for access to quality child care as well as better wages for child care providers.

“Workforce is the critical piece of the economic development and business retention process. One of the most important issues within workforce is the availability of quality childcare within the community that companies are considering expanding in or relocating to.” Mitch Robinson, Executive Director Salina Community Economic Development Organization.

Ediger will be working with community partners to develop and promote a child care model for local businesses to support child care slots for their employees.

“Area employers genuinely understand the importance that quality early childcare plays in workforce and economic development for a community, and they want to invest in it,” Eric Brown, Salina Area Chamber of Commerce CEO & President said, “The missing piece is

creating a model that is not only sustainable long-term and affordable for families, but also addresses their employees’ needs.”

Ediger’s position developed from a local grassroots effort that identified child care workforce development as an issue at a Strategic Doing Session hosted by the Greater Salina Community Foundation and Dane G. Hansen Foundation in 2018. Until now, this work has been coordinated by PIECE (Partners in Early Childhood Education), a group of passionate professionals volunteering their time.

“After four years of volunteer efforts, it was determined that in order to move the needle, a dedicated staff person needed to take the lead, and we couldn’t think of anyone better than Leadell. She has the passion, time and expertise to make this happen,” said Jessica Martin, Executive Director of the Greater Salina Community Foundation.

This position is being funded by a grant from the Earl Bane Foundation and overseen by a collaboration between Child Advocacy and Parenting Services (representing PIECE), Greater Salina Community Foundation, Salina Area Chamber of Commerce, and Saline County Economic Development Organization.



RIBBON CUTTINGS



Congrats to Chamber member **OCCK Transportation & Salina CityGo** on their facility expansion! Not only was the organization celebrating the opening of its expanded transportation facility in downtown Salina, but it also was announced as one of 26 agencies receiving funds as a part of the Access, Innovation, and Collaboration (AIC) Public Transit Program.



The Original Grande, celebrated the opening of the Salina location at 1019 E. Crawford. This location is owned and operated by JRI Hospitality and The Original Grande’s mission is to satisfy people’s cravings for Southwestern food through incredible ingredients and awesome customer service! Congratulations!



SAVE THE DATE!

Join us for these upcoming Ribbon Cutting Celebrations:

May 6 – 4:30pm
Revive Integrative Health LLC.
1130 E. Cloud St, Suite C

June 8 - 4:00pm
Ironstone Wealth Advisors
1820 S. Ohio St.



In The News

THEATRE SALINA, 303 E. Iron, proudly announces that Executive Director Michael Spicer has been awarded the Art Cole Lifetime of Leadership Award. This annual award is presented annually through the American Association of Community Theatres (AACT). The award will be presented this June at the aactWorldFest 2022, an international event that brings amateur theatre groups from around the world for a week-long celebration of live theatre in Venice, FL. Spicer previously received the David E. Bryan Award for Outstanding Service in 2018. He has served as the Executive Director of Salina Community Theatre – now Theatre Salina – for 24 years. During his tenure thus far, the theatre has received 15 regional and eight national awards for production in the AACT Fest competition, the National Winner for its 2001 production of “Wit” and the Twink Lynch Award in 2013 given to a theatre that has evolved forward in content and outreach to the community. Congratulations to Michael!



May is National Foster Care Month! **SAINT FRANCIS MINISTRIES**, 110 W. Otis Ave., has all the information you need to start your fostering journey. Their Foster Care Homes engagement recruiters would love to present additional opportunities on how you, your business or organization can support kiddos in foster care, above and beyond fostering! Contact Saint Francis Ministries at (866) 999-1599 for information.



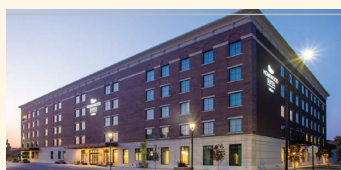
GOT NEWS?

Do you have news to share about your business or organization? Email srice@salinakansas.org and we'll publish it in an upcoming issue of *Chamber Connection*.



FOLEY EQUIPMENT, 2225 N. Ohio, announced the addition of new Chief People Officer Erin Bradley. In this new role, Bradley will oversee HR, recruitment, training, and organizational development. She most recently served as People Services Director at Garver, a national engineering, planning, architectural, and environmental services firm. Prior to that, she held a variety of Human Resources leadership roles at Black & Veatch, Honeywell Federal Manufacturing & Technologies, and Applebee's Services Inc. Bradley holds a Master of Business Administration from Baker University and Bachelor of Science from Park College. Welcome Erin!

An exciting new exhibit is now open at the **SMOKY HILL MUSEUM**, 211 W. Iron. “Let’s Play” is not just about toys but about local Salina children and how they found ways to play. Find out what Harry, Benny, Mary, Flossie, Diane, Dick, Devere, Jerry and Marilyn did for fun. See how play evolved at the turn of the 20th century as their story is presented alongside whimsical illustrations by Salina native John Keeling, a gifted illustrator and watercolorist.



HOMWOOD SUITES BY HILTON SALINA DOWNTOWN, 115 E. Mulberry, announces that Emmanuel Hernandez has been promoted to Sales Manager. Emmanuel has been part of the guest service team

at the hotel for the past two years, and is looking forward to working with clients booking meeting space and group room blocks. Congratulations Emmanuel!



The National Council for Mental Wellbeing held its National Conference (NatCon) last week in Washington DC and in attendance were five staff members from **CENTRAL KANSAS MENTAL HEALTH CENTER**, including Executive Director Glenna Phillips, Jennifer Kaufman, Jamie Lathan, Deanna Ryals and Ashley Christians. The

National Council for Mental Wellbeing is a membership organization that drives policy and social change on behalf of over 3100 mental health and substance use treatment organizations. NatCon is the largest mental health and substance use treatment conference in the world with over 5000 attendees. The mission of CKMHC is to make life better in our communities by providing excellent mental health services, education, and integrated care, which exceeds patients' expectations.

RELAY FOR LIFE WALK will be Saturday, June 4th from 4pm to 11pm at Kansas Wesleyan University's Student Center. The theme this year is “Connect for a Cure”. There will be three speakers, a DJ, food vendors, award presentations, a luminary ceremony, a silent auction, lots of fun activities! They will also recognize those we have lost due to cancer, those still struggling with cancer and survivors/thrivers of cancer. Register to walk or help raise funds at: <http://relay.org/salinecoks>

WELCOME ABOARD

New Members

CATLETT AUTOMOTIVE – NAPA

Mike Robben
2106 S. 9th Street
785-825-1601

ST. JOHN'S MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Allen Smith
215 S. Chicago
785-493-5950
www.stjohnsmbc.com



THANK YOU

to these Chamber members who continue to support our programs through their membership renewal.

- ▶ Advantage Softwash
- ▶ Arrow Printing Company
- ▶ Bergkamp Inc.
- ▶ CleanLine Inc. - Parking Lot Striping
- ▶ Delta Dental of Kansas
- ▶ Eaglecrest Retirement Community
- ▶ Eggers & Zimmerman Law & Mediation
- ▶ Exchange Bank
- ▶ Fletcher & Associates - Aflac District Office
- ▶ Hays Academy of Hair Design
- ▶ Huseman Veterinary
- ▶ Interim Healthcare of Salina
- ▶ Johnson Sand
- ▶ KAKE Channel 10
- ▶ New Horizon Services, Inc.
- ▶ On The Pot
- ▶ Reserves at Prairie Glen
- ▶ Sage Products, Inc.
- ▶ Salina Area United Way
- ▶ Salina Human Resource Management Association
- ▶ Salina Insurance Services
- ▶ Schwan Global Supply Chain, Inc.
- ▶ Schwerdtfager Masonry LLC
- ▶ Starbucks Salina Downtown
- ▶ State Farm - Robert Pruett Agency, Inc.
- ▶ Stonecreek Financial Solutions
- ▶ The Yard
- ▶ Wedel Financial Group

Thank You



OCCK Transportation has announced dates for the “Guide & Go” Travel Training program that teaches how to use public transportation services in the region.

CityGo Familiarization teaches the basics of riding CityGo in Salina, including how to read the map and timetable, fare payments and general etiquette. Classes are held virtually of 1 person, lasting one hour, with the following schedule for the City Go Fam for summer 2022:

- Wednesday, May 11, 2:30pm – Virtual
- Monday, May 23, 2:30pm – In Person
- Tuesday, June 21, 10:00am – Virtual
- Thursday, June 23 – 10:00am – In Person
- Wednesday, July 13, 2:30pm – Virtual

Participation in Travel Training is free, however participants must have internet access and be able to pick up the class packet in advance for the virtual option. Sign up online at www.salinacitygo.com/guide-go-training/ or call (785) 826-1583.



Congratulations to Salina’s two **Club Carwash** locations who joined forces to raise more than \$12,000 for Punchin’ Out Parkinsons! Great team work!



National Travel and Tourism Week 2022: Salina Celebrates the 'Future of Travel'

National Travel and Tourism Week 2022 (May 1-7) spotlights the collective strength of the U.S. travel industry.

National Travel and Tourism Week (NTTW), the annual celebration of the contributions of the U.S. travel industry, will spotlight the critical role that travel will play in driving economic growth and building the path forward through the theme **Future of Travel**.



This year's theme elevates how the travel industry can restore the workforce, help communities recover, foster sustainability, usher in new innovations and reconnect travelers in the U.S. and around the world.

Celebrated annually the first full week in May, NTTW was created by Congress in 1983 to elevate the economic power of travel in the U.S. The 39th annual NTTW (May 1-7) arrives as the industry looks ahead to future growth and success following the challenges of the past two years.

"NTTW has special significance this year as the travel industry looks ahead to a bright future," said U.S. Travel Association President and CEO Roger Dow. "This NTTW is an opportunity to recognize the collective strength of the U.S. travel industry and how we are rebuilding to be more dynamic, innovative, sustainable and inclusive in the months and years to come.



"Before the pandemic, travel generated \$2.6 trillion in economic output, supported 17 million American jobs and delivered a \$51 billion trade surplus to the U.S.—evidence of the outsized role the industry will play in driving America's recovery and future economic growth," added Dow.

"The past two years have been very difficult, with the travel and tourism industry hit particularly hard," said Sylvia Rice, Visit Salina Director at the Chamber. "Travel virtually ceased for a time. Hotels suffered greatly, venues and attractions were shuttered in some cases, restaurants who survived did so with a new business model. However, business IS rebuilding. In Salina, we are seeing sports, meetings and events returning. People are ready to GO! They come here for concerts, theatre, to visit the zoo and museums, and enjoy our beautiful downtown. The future looks bright!"



Salina will honor NTTW 2022 while celebrating several events that fall during this important week. From May 1-7, a social media campaign will celebrate the 'Future of Travel'. On Monday, a Mayoral Proclamation will designate National Travel and Tourism Week in Salina. The Arts are a BIG component of what does, and will in the future, draw travelers to Salina.

On Friday - First Friday to be exact – downtown will present art and artists, and we will celebrate the opening of the NEW STAGE in 67401 Plaza with a live performance. Air Supply performs at the Stiefel Theatre that evening. Saturday, May 7 is a big day! The UNwrap Party at 11am reveals the 12th annual SculptureTour Salina exhibit with several artists in attendance. The Garage opens their newest exhibit featuring Muscle Cars, and the Salina Liberty play at Tony's Pizza Events Center. On Sunday, Rolling Hills Zoo goes Wild About Moms for Mother's Day.



THANK YOU to the people who make up this wonderful industry – the clerks, housekeepers, chefs, salespeople, docents, tram drivers, wait staff, managers and owners at hotels, restaurants, venues, retail shops and attractions. YOU are the core of this industry. YOU are the people who welcome and care for the visitors who choose Salina for rest, business, family time, training and entertainment. YOU impact their experience, so keep up the great hospitality!

— Excerpts from U.S. Travel

Marquee Welcomes

April

- 23-24 USSSA Grand Slam Baseball Tournaments
- 30 USA Crossroads USA Showdown Softball Tournaments

May

- 7 USA 22nd Annual Sacred Heart Fast Pitch Tournaments
- 7 MAYB Basketball
- 14 Sharp Performance Top Prospect Football Showcase
- 21-22 Western KS USSSA Fast Pitch Tournaments
- 26-27 KSHSAA 4A State Baseball and Softball Tournaments

Dollars & Sense

March 5-6 • HOA Volleyball

\$135,616

March 5-6 • Region VI Basketball

\$183,648 (revised)

March 9-12 • KSHSAA 4A State Basketball

\$987,592 (revised)

March 12 • Sharp FB Combine

\$50,860

March 26 • IFA 10U Indoor Softball

\$17,696

March 26-27 • USSSA Play for the Rings Softball

\$122,712

April 2-3 • Salina Slugfest Baseball Tournaments

\$284,240

April 9 • XWE Wrestling

\$21,300

April 9-10 • 643 Baseball Tournament

\$142,120

April 16 • SAYSI Youth Baseball Tournaments

\$77,684



Volunteer Opportunities!

KSHSAA 4A STATE BASEBALL & SOFTBALL

Welcoming teams, selling and taking tickets, working the pass gate, keeping statistics, announcing the game, presenting awards and selling t-shirts and programs are all tasks that community volunteers have assisted Visit Salina with so that Salina can host the Kansas High School Activities Association State Baseball and Softball Tournaments on an annual basis.

This year the tournaments are to take place May 26-27, 2022. Baseball will welcome 8 teams to Dean Evans Stadium with game times starting at 11am and playing 4 games on Thursday and 4 games on Friday. At Softball, 8 teams will arrive at Bill Burke Park to play 4 games Thursday evening at 5pm and 7pm (2 fields simultaneously), and 4 games on Friday at 11am and 1pm.

To volunteer e-mail Tiffany at the Chamber tbenien@salinakansas.org



SALINA CROSSROADS MARATHON

The first Salina Crossroads Marathon will be held on November 5, 2022. Races will include a Marathon, Half-Marathon, and 4.01K (2.5 miles). The marathon is USATF certified making it a Boston Qualifier. The half marathon is also USATF certified.

Sponsorship and volunteer opportunities are still available. If you'd like to be a part, please contact: Chris Lehecka, Phone: (316) 706-7452, e-mail: lehecka2122@gmail.com

LPGA SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

The Senior LPGA Championship is coming to Salina, Ks July 18-24 and will showcase some of the greatest names in women's golf. Salina Country Club and JRI Hospitality invites you to be a part of the host team and sign-up to assist as a volunteer.

Why Volunteer? You will have the opportunity to watch legends of the game compete for the championship, receive a tournament branded shirt and hat, see behind-the-scenes action and what it takes to run a championship event.

The Volunteer Fee is \$40 and includes a shirt, hat, admission to tournament, meal & drinks day of shift. Minimum age to volunteer is 14, special requests will be considered. To secure your chance to be a part of this historic event in Salina and have the opportunity to enjoy a day out on the golf course watching championship golf, please send an email to Stephanie Cool at scool@jriusa.com with your contact information (Name, email, phone number and any previous tournament experience - if applicable, age if under 18). Specific needs for the tournament are being identified and there will be plenty of roles for both experienced and new volunteers.

Smoky Hill Silver
WISH HER A
Happy Mother's Day

Celebrate Mom with Smoky Hill Silver Certificates!
Available in \$10 & \$25 Gift Certificates.
Call the Salina Area Chamber of Commerce to order!



Visit Salina's Jo Ann McClure worked with the **Kansas Association of Counties** to develop an experience for their spouses during their recent conference in Salina. This photo depicts one of the stops in their day. **Where were they?**

A: Smoky Hill Museum



QUARTERLY LUNCHEON

MAY 11TH, 12-1 PM



FEATURED SPEAKER

PHIL SMITH-HANES
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
SALINE COUNTY

Join us for our second Quarterly Luncheon of the year. Enjoy lunch, networking, and an update from our featured speaker Phil Smith-Hanes, County Administrator with Saline County.

New benefit for Builder, Leader and Visionary Tiers

Contact the Chamber at 785-827-9301 to get registered

BUSINESS after HOURS

Thursday, May 5

Long McArthur, Inc.
3450 S. Ninth
5-7pm



It's Cinco De Mayo De Bronco at Long McArthur Ford! Enjoy a fiesta feast of street tacos, street corn, and a margarita bar all while checking out the Baja ready Ford Bronco! Grab your amigas and amigos and spend the evening at Casa De Ford (Long McArthur)!

Thursday, May

Sunflower Adult Day Services
401 W. Iron
5-7pm



Sunflower Adult Day Services will be highlighting their beautiful Adult Day Service facility, including our gorgeous patio. There will also be refreshments and will be happy to answer any questions regarding our services.

REFRESHMENTS – TOURS – DOOR PRIZES

\$ It Pays to Attend \$

DOOR PRIZES (MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN)
\$250 CASH ATTENDANCE DRAWING

For reservations call (785) 827-9301 or email dsmith@salinakansas.org

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CLICK Salina Chamber of Commerce



Visit Salina



Imagine Salina



Download the

SALINA 67401

App!



Featuring the NEW Visit Salina Guide, SalinaAE.com Calendar, Chamber Business Directory, Special Offers and MORE!