

# CHAMBER CONNECTION

A Publication of the Salina Area Chamber of Commerce

July 2023 Volume 63, Number 6



## AT A GLANCE Mark your Calendar!

Business After Hours . . Thursday, July 13  
Cash-Wa Direct  
1647 Sunflower Rd. – 5-7pm

KKOA Leadsled Show . . . . . July 27-30  
Oakdale Park (see pg 3)

Business After Hours . . Thursday, July 27  
JAB IT LLC  
2680 Planet Ave. – 5-7pm

*Details inside!*



## KKOA: Heats up Salina! – JULY 27-30

See pg 3



# Salina

Area Chamber of Commerce

## OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

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## From the President/CEO



Renee Duxler

July is always a big time for celebration with the July 4th holiday, and all the summer activities and gathering that comes with appreciating our nation's independence. This summer, Salina is also celebrating a lot of big community wins as well:

- The Kansas Department of Commerce announced awardees for their Aviation Learning Opportunities & Funded Training (ALOFT) grants. They received 12 applications with requests totaling more than \$33 million, and the Salina Airport Authority was 1 of 7 grantees. They are receiving a \$3.325 million dollar grant to establish the Aviation Innovation & Maintenance (AIM) Center of Excellence apprenticeship program to address the

shortage of skilled aviation maintenance workers. Local businesses and organization such as 1 Vision Aviation, Schilling Aviation Services, Garmin, K-State Salina, Avflight Salina and SkyWest will all benefit. The Salina Area Chamber of Commerce is proud to be a part of this project, as we will help with marketing and recruitment. The Salina Airport Authority received the largest award amount possible, along with Spirit and Textron out of Wichita and Orizon out of Olathe.

- Also announced were Delivering Residents and Workforce (DRAW) awards that were developed for training and workforce development initiatives in high-demand and high-wage industries. Three Salina-based businesses received over \$895,000 total in grants: Great Plains Manufacturing, OCCK Inc., and Salina Regional Health Center. The Salina Area Chamber was also thrilled to support these efforts by providing letters of support for each grant application.

- And finally, we here at the Salina Area Chamber have been working alongside United Way over the past six months to help them in the development of their Early Childcare Initiative Fund. This fund has been set up to help address a shortage in childcare workers by increasing wages and building capacity. The Kansas Children's Cabinet recently announced an award of \$1.8 million to the United Way that will help increase the capacity of childcare in Salina by 187 slots, with 40 of those being for infants.

Salina receiving this grant funding from the state continues to verify that we have become a key player in the overall economic landscape of the state, and we are also leading the way in many industries with innovation and success. None of this would've been possible without the exceptional collaboration and strong partnerships that have been developed across the community, especially between the public and private sectors. Again, the Salina Area Chamber of Commerce continues to be proud to be a part of all of this. We know that all ships rise with the tide, and as the overall health and economic development of the community grows, so does the same for each of our member businesses.

Best,

Renee Duxler, President/CEO

## HERE'S HOW TO CONTACT OUR CHAMBER STAFF

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# Time for the KOOLEST Summer Event Around! The 43rd Annual KKOA Leadsled Spectacular Returns

The KKOA Leadsled Spectacular returns to Salina July 27-30. This event is definitely one of Salina’s highlights of the year! The community welcomes classic car enthusiasts from across the nation to spend the last weekend – and some for the week – with us. We encourage local businesses to welcome the group on your outdoor marquees and signage and create social media posts on your platforms to do the same. They are very visible throughout the community, and will shop at our retail stores, enjoy some of our attractions, dine in our restaurants, and stay in our hotels. Be sure to say hello and welcome them back to Salina when you see them at the show and around town.



According to Renee Duxler, Chamber President/CEO, “KKOA as an event is such an asset to the Salina community- not only because they put on such a fun and family friendly experience- but also because they draw in thousands of participants and attendees from across the state and country. The economic impact for our community is well over \$1.5 million for the week that they are here, and that only continues to grow.”

It takes many hands, feet, and hearts to make this event happen. Visit Salina is recruiting volunteers who are needed at the Quality Inn hotel registration July 26-29, as well as during the show at Oakdale Park July 28-30. To volunteer indoors at registration e-mail: [jmclure@salinakansas.org](mailto:jmclure@salinakansas.org) and to volunteer at the park email: [tbenien@salinakansas.org](mailto:tbenien@salinakansas.org)



**"KKOA as an event is such an asset to the Salina community...and that only continues to grow."**

**Rene Duxler  
Chamber President/CEO**



### Schedule of Main Events

As of publish time. For more info see [www.kustomkempsofamerica.com](http://www.kustomkempsofamerica.com)

#### Thursday - July 27

**Spectacular Sundown Cruise** - Cruise at 7:30 pm – Viewing on Santa Fe Street (Free)

#### Friday-Sunday - July 28, 29 & 30

**Show and Shine** - Oakdale Park - Fri. 9am-5pm, Sat. 9am-5pm, Sun. 9am-2pm

Admission: Fri. \$15, Sat. \$20, Sun. \$10; Kids 12 & under Free

#### Friday & Saturday in the Park

Two Working **Kustom Shops** – 9am-5pm Daily

**Special Guest Star Erik Estrada** from TV series Chips – meet and greet, signing pictures at the KKOA T-Shirt Pavilion 10am-end of show

**Vintage Bicycle Spoke-tacular** – 9am-end of show, around the concrete rink

**Valve Cover Races** – 11am

**Beauty Contest** – Two Age Groups: Pin-ups 18-39; Lookers 40-plus 2 Main Stage

#### Friday

**KKOA Hotrod & Kustom Auction** – 9:00 - Oakdale Park-Eric Stein Stage

**Run-Whatcha' Brung Drags** - off 841 Markley Rd. - 4pm-Dusk, Admission: \$15 per person, Kids 12 & Under Free

#### Friday night KKOA Members Event

**One Night Tribute to Elvis/Starring Victor Trevino** from Ft. Worth, TX at the Stiefel Theatre  
Doors open at 8pm. Tickets \$25

#### Saturday in the Park

**Hall of Fame Walk** – 12-1pm by the T-Shirt Booth

**Model Car Show** – 9am-end of show; behind the t-shirt booth

#### Sunday in the Park

**Christian Rods and Customs Church Service** – 10am Main Stage

**Awards Ceremony** - 1pm

For more information see the KKOA website: [www.KustomKempsofAmerica.com](http://www.KustomKempsofAmerica.com)  
or contact KKOA via e-mail: [kkemps09@centurytel.net](mailto:kkemps09@centurytel.net)





# RIBBON CUTTINGS with the Bluecoat Ambassadors!

June was a BIG month for Ribbon Cuttings, keeping our Blue Coat Ambassadors busy!



Lakewood Park Playground celebrated beautiful new play equipment on June 2!



Bank of the Plains cut a ribbon to mark their name change and new branding on June 21!



On June 22, SRHC Occupational Health Partners signified their new location at 1001 S. Ohio!



The Blue Coat Ambassadors helped La Cabana Bar & Grill celebrate their 1yr anniversary on June 23!



The long-anticipated Grand Opening of Red Fern Booksellers was made official on June 23!



## Chamber introduces new Team Member!



The Chamber is pleased to welcome Jaclyn Crow to the staff, in the position of Economic & Workforce Development Director!

Her primary responsibilities will include overseeing our workforce development and business retention and expansion activities, working with the area secondary and post-secondary schools, and providing support and assistance to our employers.

She will also be overseeing our entrepreneurial programming like Project OPEN, Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge, and the Charlie Walker Pitch Challenge.

Jaclyn is a former middle school educator, most recently at South Middle School the last three years. Jaclyn also coached middle school basketball and high school softball during that time. She moved to Salina from Topeka, and currently resides here with her husband, Cole.

Please help us in welcoming Jaclyn to the Chamber!!!



*Add Your Business Offer to the 67401 App*

Chamber member businesses can offer coupons for free or discounted products or services on our 67401 app and website!

If you'd like to provide a coupon for the app, please contact Ashley Finan at (785) 827-9310 x132 or [afinan@salinakansas.org](mailto:afinan@salinakansas.org)



Download App

# THANK YOU

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

- ▶ Caregivers Home Health
- ▶ Consolidated Printing & Stationery
- ▶ Edward Jones - Colby Bertrand, Financial Advisor
- ▶ Eggers & Zimmerman Law & Mediation
- ▶ Garcia Masonry, LLC
- ▶ Glass Masters
- ▶ H.D. Lee Mercantile Lofts
- ▶ Holland Paving, Inc.
- ▶ Lowe's Home Improvement Warehouse
- ▶ Marketing Angle
- ▶ New Horizon Services, Inc.
- ▶ Office of U.S. Congressman Tracey Mann
- ▶ On The Pot
- ▶ Opportunity Funding, LLC
- ▶ Pella Windows and Doors of Salina
- ▶ ResCare KS Central
- ▶ Salina Insurance Services
- ▶ SalinaHomes.com - Morgan Powell
- ▶ SalinaUsedCars.com
- ▶ Solomon & Associates
- ▶ The Garage
- ▶ The Yard
- ▶ Tony's Pizza Events Center
- ▶ Zey Real Estate Inc.

*Thank You*



# In The News



"Kicks and Cars" is an event sponsored by "Hypebeast" and The Garage on July 22, at 134 S 4th St. Salina. The event will feature musical artist Cash Holistah. Vendors will be selling Sneakers, streetwear, and everything HYPE! You may bring in five pairs to trade or sell. Admission is \$15 dollars at the door or \$10 dollars online and includes full access to the museum and event. Buy your admission tickets, vendor and sponsorship packages at [tinyurl.com/kicksandcars](http://tinyurl.com/kicksandcars)

The Tamara Howe School of Dance and Ballet Salina are very excited to announce that we will be hosting the world-class Joffrey Workshop on July 20-22! This 3-day event will offer classes in ballet, contemporary, jazz, variations and more, here in Salina. Tamara Howe serves as the executive director of Ballet Salina. Mara Klenda serves as the artistic director of Ballet Salina. Find out more at: [www.balletsalina.com](http://www.balletsalina.com) or email: [info@balletsalina.com](mailto:info@balletsalina.com). Info about Tamara Howe School of Dance is at: [www.thsdsalina.com](http://www.thsdsalina.com) or email: [office@thsdsalina.com](mailto:office@thsdsalina.com).



[Iron Insurance Partners](#) has announced the opening of its second location in downtown Salina, Kansas. Iron Insurance Partners will now occupy the building at 116 W. Iron Ave in addition to their current location at 201 E. Iron Ave. The location on West Iron Ave. will primarily house the personal lines staff (home, auto, life insurance), while the East Iron Ave building will maintain the commercial lines staff (commercial insurance & risk management). The expansion is part of Iron Insurance Partners' vision to serve the growing needs of their clients and the community. The company has been operating since 1943 and the new location will allow the company to offer a more personalized service experience as well as accommodate the organizations' growing staff. In addition to this move, Iron Insurance Partners has reached an agreement with Bennington State Bank to occupy the first floor of the 201 E. Iron location starting July 2023.

## GOT NEWS?

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

The Salina Symphony, a semi-professional orchestra located in north-central Kansas, is announcing auditions for the 2023-2024 season. Auditions for the following Salina Symphony positions will be held Mon., Aug. 7, beginning at 7 p.m. at the Symphony Rehearsal Hall, 132 S. 5th St.: principal trombone, trombone II, and bass trombone (trombone III). Auditions for principal violin II, principal string bass, and sections strings will be held Tues., Aug. 8, beginning at 7 p.m. at the same location. Audition requirements are posted at the [website](#). For more information, please contact the Symphony Office at 785-823-8309. The Salina Symphony is dedicated to its mission of enriching lives through artistic music performance and education. For more information, contact the Symphony Office at 785- 823-8309 or visit: [salinasymphony.org](http://salinasymphony.org).



OCCK Transportation, along with partners City of Lindsborg and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas, are pleased to announce that three new locations for KANcycle, the bike sharing program for rural Kansas, will soon be launched in Lindsborg. The locations include the Fredrickson Family Fitness Park, Bethany College on the Valkommen Trail and at the Lindsborg City Hall. KANcycle, a program of OCCK Transportation, has been in existence since June of 2019, with 80 bikes and 16 stations located in Belleville, Beloit, Concordia, Ellsworth, Lincoln, Mankato, Minneapolis and Salina. KANcycle provides convenient, affordable access to bicycles as an easy, fun, healthy and eco-friendly means of transportation and recreation. Learn more at: <http://www.occk.com>.

# WELCOME ABOARD

## LA CABANA BAR & GRILL

Sandy Lopez  
2140 W. Crawford  
785-515-2105

## LINE PRO

Jason Arnold  
785-643-0018

## RED FERN BOOKSELLERS

Harley Hamilton  
106 S Santa Fe  
785-833-2088  
[www.redfernbooksellers.com](http://www.redfernbooksellers.com)

## ROSIE'S ON IRON SMALL EVENT VENUE, LLC

Julie Johnson  
125 E Iron Ave  
785-227-5593  
[www.rosieseventvenue.com](http://www.rosieseventvenue.com)

## FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



Salina Chamber  
of Commerce



Visit Salina



Imagine Salina





## ChamberBlue health care insurance being offered to small businesses again for 2024

We're excited to announce the Salina Area Chamber of Commerce is once again partnering with the Chamber of Commerce Executives of Kansas and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas to offer Chamber Blue of Kansas health care plan. In its 2nd year, this association health plan will be available to all chamber members in good standing and who employ two to fifty W2 employees.

The Chamber Blue of Kansas is focused on providing more value to business owners and their employees along with offering a tangible benefit of your local chamber membership. With more health insurance plan options at competitive rates, employers can provide rich benefits, helping attract and retain top talent.

Those interested in enrollment for 2024 will need to fill out a survey. This survey will be open from July 1 to August 18. We will also be holding informational sessions on Wednesday, July 12th at 8am, noon, and 4pm at our office. Please contact Ashley Finan at: [afinan@salinakansas.org](mailto:afinan@salinakansas.org) or 785-827-9310 x132 to get the link to the survey.

Learn more at: [bcbsks.com/chamberblueks](http://bcbsks.com/chamberblueks)



## Member Benefit Spotlight

At the Chamber, we know it's hard to balance all the demands of your time and attention. That's why we're committed to giving you services to grow your visibility, to make YOU famous in our community, and to give you better connections that will save you time and money. Gain visibility without trading your time and get supported by the most influential people in the region!

A ribbon cutting with the Salina Area Chamber of Commerce can do just that. Whether you are opening a new business or a new location, changing your business name, breaking ground for an expansion, or celebrating a milestone event a ribbon cutting is a great way to celebrate and gain exposure for your business! The Blue Coat Ambassadors will bring the red ribbon and infamous golden scissors and will help you celebrate your business and achievements!

For more info about this benefit, contact Ashley Finan at: 785-827-9310 x 132 or [afinan@salinakansas.org](mailto:afinan@salinakansas.org)




*Hank Boyer*

Meet Hank Boyer! Hank has been an Ambassador for 25 years and is currently a member of the Blue Coat Ambassador Ribbon Cutting Team and Hospitality Team.

After retiring from the City of Salina Utility Department as a Water Customer Accounting Supervisor for 36 years, Hank is currently employed with the Kansas Section American Water Works Association. Hank enjoys working out, reading and visiting Colorado breweries between all of her Board assignments and volunteering. She is on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, Community Art Design Board (CAD), United Way campaign committee, Salina Optimist Club, Board of Directors for Christ the King Lutheran Church and is a Supervisor for Voting Poll Place.

Hank has one son Allen who is married to Shannon. Her granddaughter Paige is a graduate of Pittsburg State and her grandson Turner is currently attending Nebraska and plays football for the Cornhuskers. Hank's work ethic and drive is contributed to growing up on a farm in a small central Kansas farming community. Thank you Hank for your years of commitment and dedication to the Chamber of Commerce Ambassador programs.

## Where in Salina am I?



Salina Regional Airport  
Answer: Global Flyer Statue,





## June

29-30 29th Annual Grand Slam Baseball Tournament

## July

1-2 29th Annual Grand Slam Baseball Tournament

8 USA Softball B/C State Tournament

8 MAYB Tournament

13-16 Hap Dumont 9U State Baseball

15 MAYB Tournament

22 MAYB Tournament

22 USA Softball 14 B Nationals Tournament

26-30 KKOA Leadsledders!

## Tourism Association has position open

**Visit Salina is a Charter Member of the Board of the Kansas I-70 Association. The Kansas I-70 Association is seeking an experienced marketing and administrative contractor to work on a contract basis to coordinate association meetings, communications, and marketing tactics.**



The Coordinator reports directly to the President and Executive Committee of the association. This is a part-time contract position with no benefits. This contractor will coordinate and execute tourism marketing plans and manage association communications and meetings independently. Workload varies, but the contractor can expect to contribute 20-30 hours per month to complete the duties of this position.

Need a creative thinker with above-average written and verbal communication skills; well-organized with keen attention to detail; ability to handle multiple projects concurrently; familiarity with tourism and hospitality industry marketing tactics, including social media. Basic graphic design skills are helpful.

Find the complete job description and more details [here](#).

## BATTER UP!



Visit Salina is pleased to host the 2023 Hap Dumont 9U State Championship Baseball Tournament at Bill Burke Park July 13-15. This is the fifth year for Salina to host the tournament.

Eric Blasdel, Hap Dumont Baseball President is happy the event can return this year. "Salina has the professional expertise, facilities, lodging and amenities to host this State Championship. Additionally, Salina has the perfect location for our young teams to meet centrally at the intersection of I-70 and I-135, right in the middle of Kansas. This paired with the willingness for Visit Salina to serve as host of the tournament and coordinate with the Salina Parks and Recreation Department as well as local baseball staff and volunteers makes Salina an ideal choice for the Hap Dumont 9U State Championship Baseball Tournament!"

The tournament is expected to welcome about 20 teams to Salina. Many parents and fans will attend and be exposed to Salina's restaurants, hotels, shopping and other attractions. Be sure to welcome these young players and families to our community!





# 'It takes a village' Salina/Saline County aim to attract 'best of the best' in childcare



Originally posted June 2, 2023 on [salinapost.com](http://salinapost.com)  
By Tim Unruh

Childcare is wrapped in a sticky web of issues affecting growth and quality of life improvements in Salina and Saline County.

Local leaders agree money is the biggest need to improve daily care for children. They're relying on collaboration and a deep sense of community to offer higher wages for childcare professionals and create more slots for children.

Many improvements are needed in the system, said Leigh Ann Montoy, childcare coordinator at the Saline County Health Department.

"We are not taking care of our children," she said.

Services, especially for infants and toddlers, are lacking here, Montoy said, and nationally as well.

Cities all over have been dealing with shortages of quality, consistent childcare services for years, said Renee Duxler, president and CEO of the Salina Area Chamber of Commerce.

It is among the biggest detriments to local growth, she said, but also a "positive challenge," serving as proof that expansion is taking place.

An intensified attack on the subject has entered a second decade in Salina and Saline County, that has bested some major snags.

"Housing and childcare: I live, eat and breathe conversations around those two issues," Duxler said. "It takes a village to figure this out."

In roughly 2017, the "Connecting the Dots Coalition" formed as a subcommittee of PIECE (Partners in Early Childhood Education) led by Child Advocacy and Parenting Services (CAPS) of Salina.

The subcommittee, consisting of Child Care Aware, the City of Salina, Salina Community Economic Development Organization, Martin Luther King Jr. Child Development Center, Salina Family YMCA, Saline Child Care Center, Heartland Early Education Services, and the Chamber, began to attack childcare shortages, she said, including a visit to a new childcare center in Garden City to learn and compare notes.

"This group came back, received grant funding from the Earl Bane Foundation and gained momentum," Duxler said. "Then COVID hit and all of that came to a screeching halt. When I started at the Chamber in 2020, we were just starting to kind of touch on those conversations again, and since that period, a second wind has come about with the childcare discussion."

But there has been no clear resolution.

Parents in the workforce simply could not afford to pay higher childcare fees to make wages competitive, said Claire Ludes, executive director of the Salina Area United Way.

Earlier, pay for childcare professionals was augmented by the 1998-multibillion-dollar tobacco settlement.

"Then in 2012, those dollars were redirected somewhere else, and that's when we really started seeing a ripple effect," she said. The system nearly went belly-up.

"(Childcare professionals) started leaving because the wages weren't being supplemented. Staff were paid \$8 to \$10 an hour. Teachers weren't being paid an adequate and relevant wage," Ludes said.

Childcare centers can't charge clients more, because they can't afford it, said Mitch Robinson, executive director of the Salina EDO. Slots for childcare centers were reduced, leaving parents with tough choices.

**"We are not taking care of our children,"**

**- Leigh Ann Montoy,  
Childcare Coordinator  
Saline Co Health Department**

"When a family makes the decision for the husband or wife to stay home, that's also an issue on the workforce side. We want as many people to work as we can," he said.

Incentives diminished for folks to continue working in childcare.

"There are people who love to take care of kids, but you still can't

starve to death," Robinson said. "When you can work in retail or a restaurant for more wages than in childcare, it's just not financially feasible. That's what we've got to change."

As childcare issues began to attack the local economy, Salina EDO "pivoted" its priorities, he said, especially when 1 Vision Aviation, Schwan's and Great Plains Manufacturing embarked on huge expansion projects involving a collective need for thousands more workers.

"Our board prioritized housing and childcare as critical areas of importance for the community for a lot of reasons," Robinson said. "The city's made some major strides in getting a (housing) development selected."

But childcare, he said, "has been up and down. With some (workers) staying home, it has continued to be a real problem. Several groups have come together trying to focus on the issues, and most recently, the United Way has volunteered to take the lead on that."

Ludes is running the show, but the United Way has hired a childcare director. The nonprofit has applied for a bit more than \$2 million Kansas Children's Cabinet Accelerator Grant on behalf of three childcare centers. It would create 187 childcare slots in Saline County.



The three centers include the Salina Family YMCA McAdams Center, 1323 McAdams Road, near the Schwan's plant in southwest Salina; St. John's Missionary Baptist Church, 215 S. Chicago, and St. Mary's Love N. Learn, 232 E. Cloud, part of St. Mary's School (a division of the Salina Catholic Diocese).

Other centers would be eligible to apply for grant funding through the United Way to supplement the wage gap, Ludes said.

Those are Heartland Early Head Start, 700 Jupiter, which has three rooms closed equating to 60 slots, due to staffing issues, she said, while Martin Luther King Childcare Center, 1215 N. Santa Fe, is fully staffed and open, but has no capacity for expansion at this time. Childcare in the YMCA building is at maximum capacity, Ludes said, and the Y also runs Angels Academy in Church of the Cross United Methodist, 1600 Rush.

Elected county leaders have infused \$400,000 from its share of the federal American Rescue Plan Act, to jumpstart childcare improvements.

United Way has applied for that funding, with \$75,000 going toward the new childcare director position and \$325,000 to be used as matching funds to encourage contributions.

"An agreement is being ironed out and will be presented to the County Commission for consideration once complete," said Phillip Smith-Hanes, Saline County administrator.

United Way is also accepting private donations. Checks may be sent to 113 N.

Seventh, Salina, KS 67401. Include the word "childcare" on the "for" line.

One center not on the list is Salina Childcare Center, 155 N. Oakdale, Suite 100 in the Donna L. Vanier Children's Center. It closed four rooms before raising pay in 2020.

"When they did that, they were immediately able to hire all staff and reopen rooms," Ludes said.

In that case raising pay for childcare professionals was a good move.

"It considerably increased their ability to hire," Robinson said.

Ludes figures the system in Salina and Saline County needs \$500,000 a year to grow the wages. It's essential to provide a service that will fill youngsters' needs.

"(Childcare centers) struggle to get and keep staff. When you have constant staff changing, that's hard on kiddos, too," she said. "If they're not getting that consistency, it's hard on brain development as they grow."

United Way and other leaders have been visiting with major employers to gauge their willingness to contribute money to help improve childcare, and other shortfalls, such as worker shortages.

Linda Salem, principal advisor at Great Plains Manufacturing, 1525 E. North, provided this statement: "Great Plains continues to expand. With that, the need for housing and childcare for our employees continues to grow. The City is addressing the housing need. It gives us continued confidence in our decision to expand here when we see this strong focus on childcare. Salina is fortunate to have a strong partnership between the community and business. Great Plains is committed to being part of the solution in our communities to assist with the childcare challenge and we have confidence that the other business leaders will also want to participate."

A number of employers have joined in discussions to develop solutions, according to local leaders.

"We will be meeting with local businesses in Saline County to help supplement wages across all nonprofit childcare centers," Ludes said, "except for Salina Childcare Association."

With an influx of workers expected to take jobs available from a number of companies, chief among them the sizable Great Plains/Kubota and Schwan's expansions in Salina, 1 Vision Aviation, and Vortex Companies, childcare is among the obstacles of filling jobs.

Schwan's has entered a partnership with the McAdams Center, which is close to the company's Tony's Pizza plant.

"They are going to have that for their people, first right of refusal, with overflow for the general

public" Ludes said, "We have been meeting with people left and right, and it has the most momentum it's ever had. I think we're going to see some real progress being made before long."

While the problems are far from solved, Montoy is encouraged.

"Everybody's working hard. I'm sensing it's getting better," she said. "We want the best of the best taking care of our children because they're that important. Communities don't work without safe, available childcare. It's a critical component to making our society work."



**"Housing and childcare: I live, eat and breathe conversations around those two issues. It takes a village to figure this out."**

**- Renee Duxler, Chamber President/CEO**

SALINA AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**Business Hall of Fame Nomination Form**

Form Deadline: July 31, 2023

**Business Hall of Fame Nomination Form**

Or contact Stephanie at [sgillig@salinakansas.org](mailto:sgillig@salinakansas.org)





# \$ It Pays to Attend \$

## Wedel Financial Group – June 22



Bob Huseman accepts the June BAH \$250 Attendance Drawing 'check' from Mark Wedel, Wedel Financial Group.



Archie Riggs won the RSVP Prize at Wedel Financial last month!



Chad Robinson was the lucky winner of the Wedel Financial 'Swag Prize'!  
**Congratulations to all the winners!**



### July 13 Cash-Wa Direct



Cash-Wa Direct at 1647 Sunflower Road offers restaurant quality food & supplies. Whether you are planning for a wedding, graduation, business party, or you just love cooking at home, Cash-Wa Direct has everything you need. They are open to the public Monday-Saturday, with no membership fees. Come check out their inventory, network, and a chance to win some prizes!

### July 27 JAB IT LLC



JAB IT PC at 2680 Planet Avenue is veteran owned and operated and consists of 4 core offerings: PC Sales & Service, Security Systems, Managed IT, and Consulting. Whatever your IT and Security needs, JAB IT LLC has the best quality products, services, and technicians around. Come visit, check out their Belmont Plaza location, and learn how they can take your business to the next level!

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](mailto:dsmith@salinakansas.org)

**Admission – Fast Pass or \$5 at door  
Hours – 5-7pm**

Questions – contact Stephanie at 785.827.9310 ext. 124  
or [sgillig@salinakansas.org](mailto:sgillig@salinakansas.org)