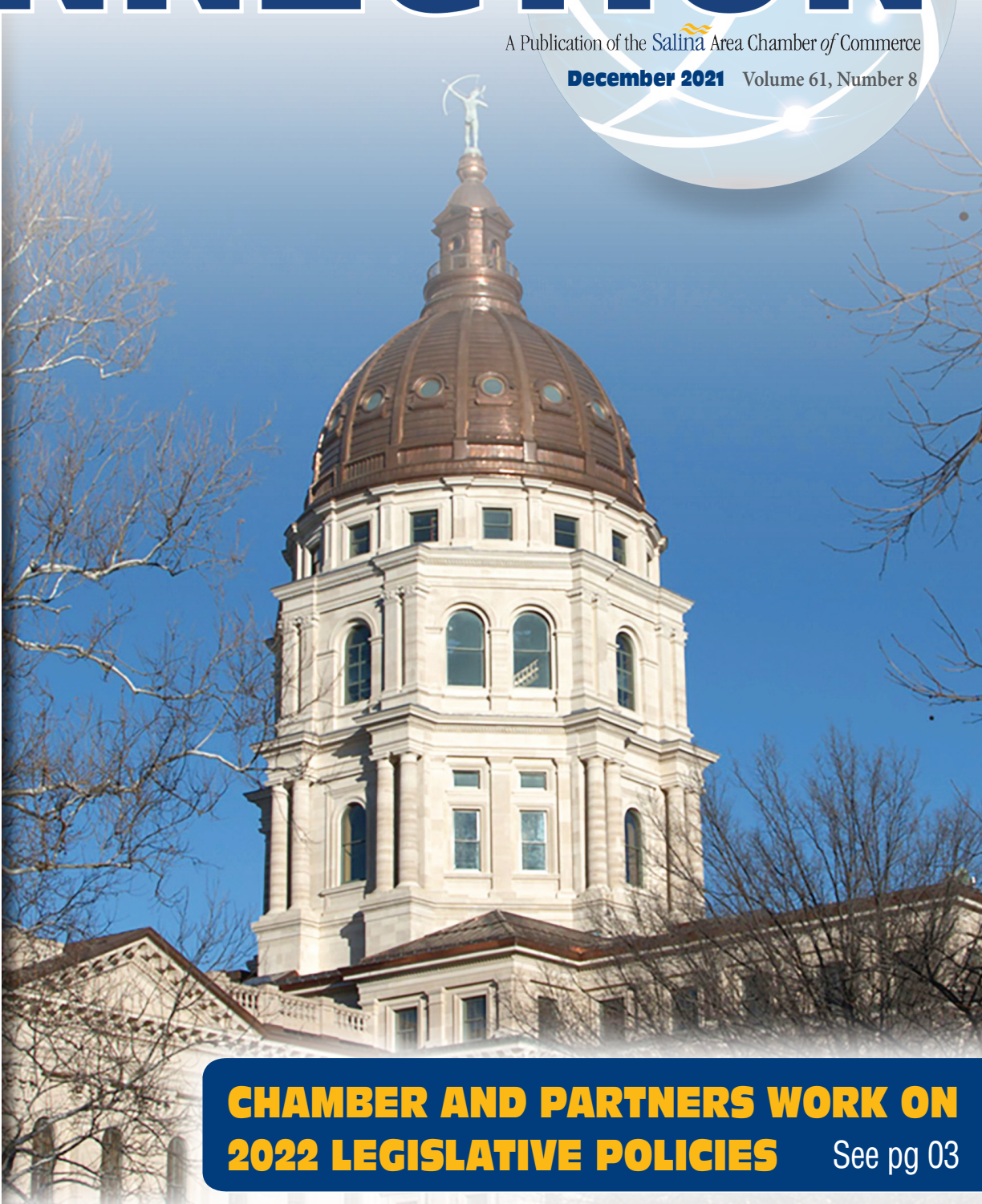
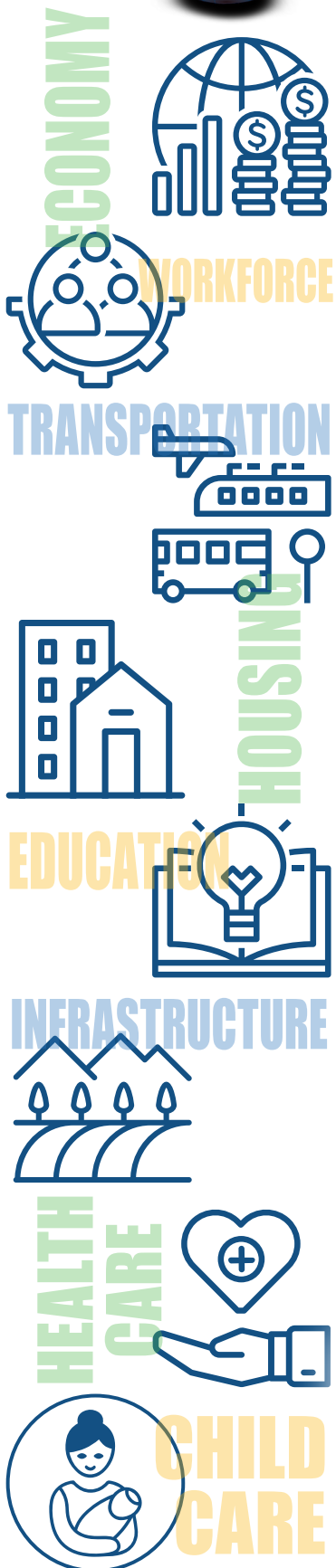


CHAMBER CONNECTION

A Publication of the Salina Area Chamber of Commerce

December 2021 Volume 61, Number 8



CHAMBER AND PARTNERS WORK ON 2022 LEGISLATIVE POLICIES See pg 03

AT A GLANCE

Business After Hours December 9
Baron Mushroom
141 S. Santa Fe
5-7pm

Details inside!

HOLIDAY EVENTS See pg 11





Salina

Area Chamber of Commerce

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

The Salina Area Chamber of Commerce **Chamber Connection** (USPS 478-100) is published by the Salina Area Chamber of Commerce, 120 W. Ash, Salina, Kansas 67401. Periodical Postage paid at Salina, Kansas. Subscription rate to members is \$1.25 per year. Sylvia A. Rice, Editor. Consolidated Printing, layout and design. Postmaster: Send address changes to: **Chamber Connection**, PO Box 586, Salina, KS 67402-0586.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHAIR Jeff Maes
ComPro Realty

VICE CHAIR Dr. Alysia Starkey
Kansas State University
Polytechnic Campus

CHAIR ELECT Travis Young
Salina Vortex

TREASURER Loren Young
K-Coe Isom, LLP

PAST CHAIR James Lambert
Retired

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

Kristy Balthazor
Grow Bold

David Disberger
Great Plains Manufacturing

Terry Hauschel
Salina Regional Health Center

Tim Holm
Holm Automotive

Andrew Manley
First Bank Kansas

Larry Michel
Kennedy Berkley Yarnevich
& Williamson

Dr. Scott Owings, MD
KU School of Medicine

Lori Perez
Sanity Boutique

Maria Rapp, DC
Chiropractic Wellness Center

Amber Renfro
Coldwell Banker Antrim-Piper,
Wenger Realtors

Bonnie Sanderson
Woods & Durham, Chtd.

Gary Stansberry
Salina Blue

Susan Trafton
Tony's Pizza Events Center

Susan Young
Bennington State Bank

From the CEO



Eric L. Brown

Why is Advocacy More Important than Ever? Last month the CEO letter centered around supporting local businesses and how those locally spent consumer dollars support our community in numerous ways. Several of the reasons that business advocacy is important was witnessed in the last 18 months as mandates, federal funding decisions, and legislation was decided upon at the local, state, and federal levels that had far reaching effects on our business community.

In late 2020, the Chamber advocated on behalf of the small business community to secure and distribute, from Saline County, \$2.7M in grant funding from the CARES Act to businesses that were forced to close or experienced negative financial damage during the shutdown. The mask mandate, the vaccine mandate, the Infrastructure law, and American Rescue Plan Act funds and other state and federal support are just a few more of the issues and topics that the Chamber has provided advocacy efforts on and will continue to do so into the future.

Advocacy matters because it can influence public policy by providing a means for individuals, organizations, and businesses to voice an opinion. It is the process of stakeholders making their voices heard on issues that affect their operations and when coupled with a chamber or association, it amplifies those voices. These efforts ultimately provide policymakers an opportunity to respond to constituents' needs.

Your Chamber works on many of these advocacy action fronts to keep our elected officials informed. We provide real individual business and local perspective on how proposed ordinances or laws could negatively or positively affect our community.

The cover story is an example of the advocacy work that is undertaken annually with our community partners to put the overall legislative priorities into an easily digestible form that can be shared with all the elected officials that serve Saline County, the city, and the region.

Your voice is incredibly important, and I encourage you to email or call your elected officials, invite elected officials to see your operations, and let your Chamber know what policy or regulatory issues you are struggle and are negatively affecting your business.

Best,

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

HERE'S HOW TO CONTACT OUR CHAMBER STAFF

Eric L. Brown, President/CEO
ebrown@salinakansas.org

Sylvia Rice, Visit Salina Director
srice@salinakansas.org

LaCrista Brightbill, Events and Community Initiatives Director
lbrightbill@salinakansas.org

Sandy Cole, Accountant
scole@salinakansas.org

JoAnn McClure, Convention & Military Manager
jmcclore@salinakansas.org

Ashley Finan, Membership Recruitment and Retention Director
afinan@salinakansas.org

Tiffany Benien, Sports & Events Manager
tbenien@salinakansas.org

Renee Duxler, Economic & Workforce Development Director
rduxler@salinakansas.org

Donna Smith, Office Assistant
dsmith@salinakansas.org



Chamber works with Local Partners to Create Legislative Agenda

The Chamber is working with local partners toward the creation of the 2022 Legislative Policy Agenda. While the process is not complete, at this stage it focuses on eight priorities for regional growth, economic development, community health, and overall quality of life for Salina and the area.

Drive Regional Success & Economic Development



Salina and the growing region continue to benefit from efforts that incentivize and support the creation or expansion of business in our communities. We support incentive programs, small business development and entrepreneurship programs, tax policy, and collaborative efforts that create a business-friendly environment and produce jobs for the region.

Strengthen A Skilled Workforce



Our most valuable asset in Salina and the region is a highly skilled workforce. The recruitment and retention of talent continues to be of highest priority. We support funding and policy that encourages access to education, fortifies quality of life, and incentivizes living and working in our communities.

Fortify Transportation Initiatives



Salina industry and business relies heavily on access to quality and reliable multi-modal transportation options, including highways, roads, bridges, rail and Salina Regional Airport access. We support funding and legislation that protects and fortifies our transportation options and creates effective and efficient ways to strengthen commerce and continue economic development.

Establish Affordable, Quality Housing



Affordable housing is vital to the attraction and retention of workforce, as well as creating vibrant and thriving neighborhoods within a community. We support increased funding for housing programs and grants, as well as expansion of Rural Housing Incentive Districts (RHIDs).

Invest In Education



Access to quality and affordable education continues to be a major impetus for economic development in communities across Kansas, as it is so crucial in preparing a skilled workforce and creating opportunity. We support further investment in our education system in Kansas, including vital funding and expansion of access to our post-secondary schools and programs.

Address Unique Needs of Rural Infrastructure



Rural communities have seen our infrastructure deteriorate--jeopardizing jobs, health and wellbeing, and overall competitiveness in agriculture and other industries important to rural America. We support increased efforts to improve transportation, housing, broadband, power, and other infrastructure needs that will enhance business development, quality of life, and access to economic opportunity.

Ensure Affordable Healthcare



The physical and mental health of residents and workers is vital to the overall economic health of a community. We support funding, initiatives, and efforts that promote access to healthcare, mental health care, public health education efforts, and substance abuse treatment options for working Kansans and their families. This includes expansion of Medicaid.

Secure Access to Early Childhood Programming & Childcare



Quality childcare and early childhood programs play a significant role in the state's economic success. The demand for childcare is significant, and the availability of quality childcare may impact our communities' ability to attract and retain talent. We support policy that encourages public and private partnerships to increase access to quality childcare, as well as programming and initiatives toward early childhood education.

Created in partnership with our member businesses and these community organizations:



Salina Aerospace and Technology Campus



For more information, contact Eric Brown, President/CEO at: ebrown@salinakansas.org or (785) 827-9301.

Facts on the OSHA Emergency Temporary Standard for COVID-19 Vaccinations

From the US Chamber of Commerce

On November 5, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) published in the Federal Register its emergency temporary standard (ETS) that will require private sector employers with 100 or more workers to ensure that employees are vaccinated against Covid19. If employers do not want to dismiss employees who are not vaccinated, they have the option to allow those unvaccinated employees to submit a weekly negative COVID test and follow masking requirements when working indoors. Note that the ETS preempts state laws that provide a weaker level of protection, such as those that ban employers from requiring masks or vaccinations. Here are the facts that you need to know about how this will impact your business. [NOTE: OSHA announced on Nov. 18 that they would suspend enforcement of the ETS until further notice]

Establishment of Program:

- Employers will need to develop a program to verify the vaccination status of all employees and maintain records of vaccination status and test results.
- Employers can provide a testing option for those employees who do not wish to be vaccinated. However, employers do not have to allow a testing option under the ETS.

Timeline:

- Employers will need to have workers fully vaccinated by January 4, 2022. This same timeline applies to employers covered by the previously announced government contractor vaccination mandate.
- For workers who are not vaccinated, the testing requirement begins on January 5th. Prior to that date, unvaccinated workers do not need to be tested.
- However, other parts of the ETS are effective December 5. Starting on that date, unvaccinated workers will need to adhere to masking requirements in the workplace, employers will need to provide four hours of paid leave for workers to get shots, and also provide additional leave for workers who need to recover from side effects.
- The ETS will be in effect for six months. After that, OSHA will determine if the standard should be made a permanent rule.

100 Employee Threshold:

- The 100 or more employee threshold is determined per company, not per location. It covers all U.S. employees. An employer is covered if, at any time during the period the ETS is in effect, they have at least 100 employees, even if at times they have fewer than 100 employees.
- For franchise operations, each franchisee is generally considered a separate business, but operators of multiple locations will be considered covered if collectively there are at least 100 employees at the different locations.
- Part-time employees do count towards the 100 employee threshold.
- Independent contractors do not count towards the 100 employee threshold.

- Employees of staffing agencies are covered if the staffing agency has at least 100 employees.
- Employees working from home do count towards the 100 employee threshold, but they do not have to be vaccinated or tested if they are not coming into contact with other employees or customers.
- Temporary and seasonal workers do count towards the 100 employee threshold if they are employed while the ETS is in effect.

Paid Leave:

- Employers must provide four hours of paid leave for workers to receive each vaccination dose. Employers may not require employees to use existing leave for vaccinations.
- Employers must allow “reasonable” time off to recover. OSHA suggests providing two days. Employers will not have to account for the rare cases where recovery takes longer than two days. Employers can require employees to use existing leave balances to recover from side effects of vaccination.
- The ETS does not require employers to provide paid leave to workers who test positive. However, other laws or collective bargaining agreements might.

Testing Option:

- Workers who are unvaccinated will be required to submit negative test results at least weekly starting on January 5, 2022. If an employee is away from work for more than a week, a negative test must be provided within 7 days before returning to work.
- Employers do not have to provide or pay for tests. However, other laws outside of the ETS may require employers to pay for tests, such as those requiring religious or medical accommodations. Employers may question employees about the basis of their religious beliefs related to an exemption from vaccinations. The EEOC has guidance on how employers should handle requests for a religious or medical exemption.
- Employers must immediately remove from the workplace anyone who tests positive. Employers must notify OSHA within 8 hours of a work-related fatality, and within 24 hours of a work-related case that involves hospitalization.
- Unvaccinated employees will be required to observe masking requirements in the workplace regardless of a negative test result.
- In the event that testing is unavailable or lab delays prevent getting a test result, OSHA will look at an employer’s efforts to comply and their record of compliance, and refrain from enforcement where the facts point to good faith efforts to comply with the ETS.

Vaccination:

- Booster shots are not currently considered part of the vaccination requirement under the ETS.
- Employees who have only received one shot of a two-shot regimen



are not considered fully vaccinated, and thus must abide by testing and masking requirements.

- Employers must obtain proof of vaccination status. However, employers are not responsible for fraudulent documents submitted as proof.
- An employee who is not able to obtain proof of vaccination can provide an attestation.
- The ETS does not allow prior infection to count towards the vaccination requirement.

There are four exceptions to the requirements of the rule:

- Workers who report to a workplace where no one else is present.
- Workers who work exclusively remotely.
- Workers who work exclusively outdoors, which does not include regular transportation in a vehicle with others.
- Workers who express a sincerely held religious belief or cannot be vaccinated for medical reasons can be offered a testing option.

Preemption and State Plan States:

- OSHA has made clear that the ETS preempts any inconsistent state or local laws, including laws that ban or limit an employer’s authority to require vaccination, masks, or testing.
- In state plan states, worker safety agencies may develop their own plan that is “at least as protective” as the OSHA standard. If they choose to do so, states must notify OSHA within 15 days and publish a plan within 30 days. The state plan can be more protective than OSHA’s standard. Click here for a list of state plan states.

Information Provided to Employees:

- Employers must provide to employees in a language (and to a literacy level) that they can understand: (1) information about the requirements of the ETS and workplace policies and procedures established to implement the ETS; (2) the CDC document “Key Things to Know About COVID-19 Vaccines”; (3) information about protections against retaliation and discrimination; and (4) information about laws that provide for criminal.

For access to more guidance on the ETS, contact Renee Duxler, Economic and Workforce Development Director, at 785-827-9310 x127 or duxler@salinakansas.org.



ACCE ANNOUNCES 2021 40 UNDER 40



Eric Brown

Eric Brown, President/CEO of the Salina Area Chamber of Commerce is among those named as the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives – ACCE 40 Under 40 for 2021. ACCE is dedicated to recognizing and supporting the most talented professionals in the chamber industry. This annual recognition program showcases 40 of the industry’s top emerging leaders who have demonstrated success in their careers and made significant contributions to the communities they serve. The list includes CEOs and staff professionals from a wide variety of roles and chamber sizes. Their creativity, dedication and commitment to identifying innovative solutions will help shape the future of the chamber profession.

Jeff Maes, 2021 Chamber Board Chair, nominated Brown and had this to say. “Eric has positively impacted our organization and community because of his leadership, skills, knowledge, willingness to help others and dedication to our mission. His experience and leadership with both long-term and short-term community development efforts, chamber specific programming, advocacy and business development has had a truly positive impact on the future of Salina and our region of Kansas as a whole.”

Congratulations Eric!

Mark your Calendar to save the NEW Dates!

Mid America Farm Expo
March 23-25, 2022

Saline County Expo Center and Tony’s Pizza Events Center





Leadership Salina Celebrates Graduation and Great Projects!

The Leadership Salina Class of 2021 celebrated graduation on November 18th at the Salina Country Club. Congratulations to all the class members and their employers. An integral part of the Leadership program is for the class to be placed into smaller teams that each create and execute a 'class project' to benefit the community. Once again, the teams came up with great ideas, described below.

GREEN TEAM: Iam Groopman, Kara Titus, Laurel Driskell, Jenifer Bretton, and Josh Doak

In collaboration with Salina Arts & Humanities, the Green Team will commission artist Dave Loewenstein to complete three murals in Downtown Salina. The murals will be on the newly relocated stage on the corner of Ash and Santa Fe, Campbell Plaza, and the alley behind the Stiefel Theatre. The murals will be completed by May 2022.

RED TEAM: Mike Wilson, Hannah Weishaar, Francheska Bailey, Yesica Swenson, Becky Rathbun and Rafael Mendez

The Red Team have observed a need in the community for qualified, experienced, and knowledgeable people to serve on the numerous Nonprofit and Civic boards within our communities. Springboard is a 1-day immersive board service training program designed to provide access, development, training, and education on the expectations of serving on a board. No previous experience required. Participants will learn typical board responsibilities, governance, procedures, ways they



can support the executive director, and will discuss how they would respond to specific board scenarios. Springboard will be a Salina Area Chamber of Commerce program, in partnership with Kansas Wesleyan University for the creation of the curriculum and facilitation of our inaugural class targeted for April 2022.

PURPLE TEAM: Cara Emig, Leslie Bishop, Brenda Meyer, April Rickman and Spencer Dixon

Along with our community partners at Rolling Hills Zoo and Lakewood Discovery Center, the Purple Team endeavored to "save the bees" by educating the community about the importance of bee habitats. We created an educational brochure with a pollinator flower seed packet attached. Please pick up our brochure when you are out and about in Salina and plant a few pollinators in your yard to "save the bees"!

BLUE TEAM: Genell Heimer, Chloe Matthews, Cynthia Garcia, Micah Bunce, Amanda Otto, and Renee Duxler

The Blue Team project implements 4 rains barrels to capture water from the Salina Area Emergency Food Bank's roof. The barrels will be utilized during the growing season of April through October to capture Salina's average 24 inches of rain during this time. This translates to about 46,370 gallons of water. The food banks gardeners will be able to water their plants with nitrate rich water leading to healthier & bigger produce. We were also able to fund 12 scholarships for families and kids to apply for if they'd like a gardening plot, and we were also able to fund a full-size composting worm bed to be used a valuable fertilizer. Salina Tech will help install the rain barrels and in return we donated \$500 to the class.

GOLD TEAM: Aaron Howard, Amanda Wilson, Saskia Lehnert, Angela Kerner, Matt Dill and Jennifer Kaufman

Local businesses in Salina are growing, and they need to attract new people to the area to grow the local workforce, fill vacant jobs, and create a thriving and dynamic community. Our Gold Team solution: We want to tell the story of Salina and create a sense of community around the social media tagline #6740wonderful and point out all that Salina has to offer by advertising the 67401 app, which is full of links to local events, discounts, and resources. With our funding we ordered window clings, table tents, and mission statements that will promote the 67401 app that will include a QR code for easy download. We are creating packets and disperse to higher traffic businesses. Any materials that are left over will be given to the Chamber of Commerce to include in relocation packets and at their discretion.

For information about applying to be part of the next Leadership Class, or to support the program financially, contact LaCrista Brightbill at lbrightbill@salinakansas.org or (785) 827-9310, x124.



**2022
NEW
MEMBER
ORIENTATION**

Discover how to take advantage of your Salina Area Chamber of Commerce membership. Hear from Eric Brown, President/CEO, Ashley Finan, Membership Director, and others on the ins & outs membership, how to get involved, and more!

Eric Brown
President/CEO

Ashley Finan
Membership
Recruitment &
Retention Director

**JANUARY 13, 2022
12PM-1PM**
LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED.
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED.
120 W. Ash, Salina, KS 67401
Visit Salina Annex

REGISTRATION:
785-827-9301

salinakansas.org



RIBBON CUTTINGS



Glik's Boutique and Glik's Mens, 2259 S. 9th Street, located at the Central Mall, celebrated their grand openings with a Ribbon Cutting. Glik's is a family owned retail company carrying name brand apparel/footwear for men & women. Brands include: The North Face, Patagonia, Thread & Supply, KanCan, Hey Dude, Roxy, Nature Backs, Simply Southern, HUK, Ariat, Love Stitch, Billabong, Hurley, 1897, Quiksilver and more.



Salina Area Technical College, 2562 Centennial Rd, held a groundbreaking ceremony for their new Student Center. The Board of Trustees have approved a major initiative to change the campus for the benefit of students and the community. By selecting local general contractor, Ponton Construction, Inc., Salina Tech is committed to being the college of choice for the students in our region. With major donors already contributing to the project, it is time to begin the construction phase of the project. Contributions are still needed to connect the addition to the existing building A structure and mechanical systems, but the addition construction will begin mid November.



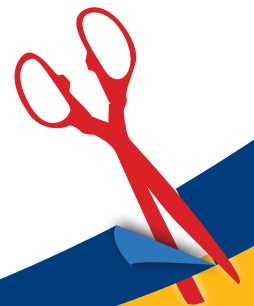
Kelly Kitchener Agency Inc., 1809 S. Ohio Street, celebrated the opening of their new location with a Business After Hours and Ribbon Cutting. The Kelly Kitchener Agency, Inc. has been servicing Salina, Kansas insurance needs for 20 years. They want to be YOUR hometown Insurance Agency providing our community with the best service and insurance buying experience! *Photo Credit to Hannah Crickman*



Miller Family Chiropractic, 1027 The Midway, celebrated their new practice with a Ribbon Cutting. Dr. Miller at Miller Family Chiropractic is a third-generation chiropractor that is continuing to serve Salina, just like his father before him. Dr. Miller is offering services for better health including Chiropractic adjustments, therapies, x-rays, muscle work, nutrition, and overall healthcare for the whole family.



Town & Country Animal Hospital, 1501 S. Ohio St, celebrated the opening of their new building with a Ribbon Cutting and open house. Finally, after a long time of planning, Town and Country Animal Hospital has its third home in 61 years. The new hospital will allow them to better fulfill their mission statement: to educate, prevent and heal to increase quality of life. They send a big Thank You to their clients, patients and employees, who have been so patient. They look forward to welcoming both old and new friends. As Dr. Karen Young said, "Our building has changed, but our culture has not!"





In The News



Chris Nickell



Tracy Allen



Stephanie Cool



Erick Womack



Chris Rice



Alan Davis



Tonya Watts

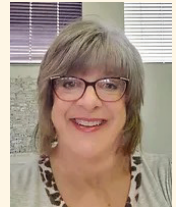
SALINA COUNTRY CLUB, 2101 E. Country Club Road, is under new ownership in 2021! SCC has joined the JRI Hospitality family which also includes Mokas, Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakburgers, Chompies, Original Grande, The Farmhouse and other entities. SCC has a new leadership team with JRI, with a few new, and some familiar, faces: Chris Nickel, SCC General Manager/Operating Partner; Tracy Allen, SCC Assistant General Manager; Stephanie Cool, Director of Community Engagement; Erick Womack, Director of Golf; Chris Rice, Golf Course Superintendent; Alan Davis, Food and Beverage Director and Tonya Watts, Executive Assistant.

SAINT FRANCIS MINISTRIES will host a Virtual Career Fair on Wednesday, December 15, from 10am to 1pm, then from 4pm to 7pm. The child and family services nonprofit hopes to fill a range of positions, including behavioral health techs, therapists, primary counselors, drivers, nurses, permanency specialists, and family support workers. Some positions require a high school diploma, others need a college degree. Same day offers for some applicants. Details about upcoming virtual and live fairs can be found at <https://saintfrancisministries.org/careers>.

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*.

SALINA DOWNTOWN INC. BID Advisory Board announces that Leslie Bishop has accepted the position of Executive Director of the organization. Leslie looks forward to learning more, building new relationships, and working with community leaders to build strong partnerships to benefit all. Leslie has been acting as interim director for some time, and is very encouraged about all the excitement and opportunity downtown. Salina Downtown Inc. was established as a nonprofit merchant's association in 1975, and was one of the first business improvement districts in Kansas, beginning in 1983. Salina Downtown is a true destination, located at the crossroads of I-135 and I-70 and home to the Stiefel Theatre, Smoky Hill Museum, and Salina Fieldhouse.



DONATE TO Dine

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9TH 11 AM - 2 PM
2661 MARKET PLACE SALINA, KS 67401

MCALISTER'S DELI SALINA invites the community to make a donation to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Salina and will treat all contributors to a complimentary meal* on Thursday, December 9th from 11am to 2pm. A minimum \$2 Donation per person via Eventbrite is required (ages 13 and up). Customers must provide proof of donation for entry and to receive complimentary meal. *Complimentary meal includes one adult entree and beverage. Limit one per person. Dine-in only. Cash not accepted.* Valid only at McAlister's Deli in Salina on 12/9/21 from 11am-2pm.

KCOE ISOM is pleased to announce that Samuel Neff joined the firm as an associate accountant in September 2021. A Fort Hays State University graduate, Sam also interned with the firm during the summer of 2020. Lydia Hoffman joined the firm in October as a bookkeeper. Lydia is a graduate of Kansas State University. Both these professionals are a great addition to the firm's Salina team!



K · C O E I S O M

Christmas Shopping in Downtown Salina is "Santatacular"

Shop Downtown Salina Saturday, December 18, 2021



WELCOME ABOARD

New Members

ANDERSON KNIGHTS ARCHITECTS

Natalie Gordon
215 S. Santa Fe
(785) 539-0806

BLUSHE BOUTIQUE

Pam Welsh
128 S. Santa Fe
(785) 806-7090

PARADISE EATS LLC

Kissy Beeson
(785) 410-4795
<http://www.paradiseeatsllc.com>

MCALISTER'S DELI

2661 Market Place
(785) 473-0133

take to meet

SMOKY HILL VINEYARDS & WINERY

Owner(s): Brock & Nicki Ebert, George & Jeanna Plante
Email: smokyhillwinery@yahoo.com

What service/product do you provide?

We have handcrafted superior quality wines that are produced and bottled in Salina, Kansas! We are a farm winery that self-distributes wine and participates in events throughout the state of Kansas.



When did you start your business and why?

We started our winery in November of 2012 with the main goal being to carry on the tradition of being a local family owned

winery just as the Jennings family did at the original Smoky Hill Vineyards & Winery that was founded in 1991.

Anything else you would like the community to know?

Our 2021 Christmas Wine is now available at all three of our tasting room locations and in KS liquor stores. Ask your local liquor store to call us and we will deliver it in time for gift giving during the holidays. We offer free wine tastings, physical gift cards and e-gift cards for in-store purchases, and we sell/ship wine and various accessories through our website: www.smokyhillwinery.com

What is something that no one knows about you?

Since we've owned the winery we have participated in 30-40 events per calendar year across the state of Kansas.

Tell us a memorable experience that you've had in your business:

In western Kansas, we had the opportunity to meet and visit with the governor at an event we took part in. It's all about the various people we meet at our events and the feedback on our wines that we cherish!



See the entire interview, and others, posted at:
<https://www.salinakansas.org/take-5.html>

THANK YOU

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

- ▶ AmericInn by Wyndham
- ▶ Baymont by Wyndham
- ▶ Carpet Cleanse
- ▶ Catholic Diocese of Salina
- ▶ Commercial Signs, Designs & Shirts
- ▶ Coops Pizzeria
- ▶ Crestwood, Inc.
- ▶ Icon Structures, Inc.
- ▶ Kindred Hospice
- ▶ KSNL
- ▶ LifeSave Transport
- ▶ Radio Kansas
- ▶ Sandstone Saloon
- ▶ Sky Trampoline Park
- ▶ Smoky Hill Vineyards & Winery, Inc.
- ▶ StuJo's Carwash
- ▶ VYPE Kansas, LLC



Dollars & Sense

Big Brothers Big Sisters Frosty Fun Run

\$29,120

KSHSAA 2A State Football

\$260,640

Marquee Welcomes

December

11 Salina Holiday Classic Basketball Tournament

January

8 MAYB Basketball Tournament



SculptureTour Salina is a grassroots program to bring sculptures to Salina, on artist loan from across the country. You can support the program in several ways. Become a Friend of SculptureTour, sponsor a sculpture site, and most importantly, VOTE for your favorite sculpture in the 2021 PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD! We celebrate our 11th exhibit with 2021, and we want to hear from everyone about which piece you want to remain in Salina on permanent display. Voting is open to ALL ages, Salina residents and visitors alike! It's so easy!

Pick up a brochure/ballot from one of the silver boxes at the mid-block crosswalks on Santa Fe, or a downtown business

Walk the exhibit with your family, friends, co-workers

Complete the ballot inside the brochure and return to a silver box, or downtown business

DEADLINE TO VOTE IS DECEMBER 31, 2021.

End this year on an upbeat note, and VOTE!



Rolling Hills Zoo Breaks Ground for Pride of the Prairie

With donors, members of the construction and architect team, RHZ board members, and staff present, **Rolling Hills Zoo** (RHZ) broke ground on their new habitat, *The Pride of the Prairie*, on November 12, ushering in a new era at the zoo.

Mimicking the savanna grasslands of Africa, the native tall grass prairies of Kansas serve as the inspiration for Rolling Hills Zoo's newest experience which will encompass nearly 20,000 sq. ft. and will feature a new indoor space, additional off-exhibit housing, and an up-close and personal 180-degree lion viewing cave. Additional highlights of this new addition include opportunities for guests to experience being directly underneath a 450 lb. lion or coming nose to nose with her at one of the windows within the cave. A special training window inside the cave will also allow guests to be just feet away as animal care staff safely perform daily husbandry with the lions, all part of the exemplary care given to each animal at the zoo.

One of the most exciting features of *The Pride of the Prairie* will be additional housing to introduce a male to the zoo's pride. This building will include a viewing window for guests to observe as the new lion is safely introduced to the pride (which could take several years). In the future this space could serve as a den for a lioness and her cubs during their first few months of life, while offering a "first look" of the new cubs.

lionesses, Zalika and Kamali, will be living in their temporary habitat in the former Amur leopard habitat, which is part of the big cat loop.

"Few animals are more iconic to, or representative of, grassland ecosystems than the African lion," shared Ryan VanZant, RHZ Executive Director. "At Rolling Hills Zoo we could not ask for a better species to serve as an ambassador for the decline in grassland habitats taking place worldwide. We are excited to bring *The Pride of the Prairie* lion experience to life this spring!"

Pride of The Prairie



ROLLING HILLS ZOO

While construction takes place, the zoo's

A Sampling of 6740 wonderful Holiday Entertainment!



Don't miss this free family fun event at the Smoky Hill Museum, 211 W Iron, on Saturday, December 4 from 1-4pm! Timed tickets are required, so go to smokyhillmuseum.org to get your tickets now. There is much to see and do. Snap a photo with Pioneer Santa and listen as he reads letters from the past. Make and take some simple crafts, PLUS there will be more crafts to take and make. Enjoy the music of violin and piano duo Denise Blem and Judy Weber. Pick up a delicious goodie bag. Be sure to visit with Santa woodcarver Ken Miller, weaver Margaret Presley and candle maker Jessica Coulter. You might win a carving or a winter scarf. You need not be present to win. Help those less fortunate. Bring a hat, mittens, gloves, socks or a winter scarf for our Share the Warmth box. Can't make it? Avoiding crowds? Get a take and make craft bag at the Museum, Saturday, December 11, while supplies last. It is all happening at the Smoky Hill Museum!



Enjoy beautiful arrangements of the most cherished songs of the season at the Salina Symphony Christmas Festival Sat., Dec. 11, at 7pm and Sun., Dec. 12, at 4pm at the Stiefel Theatre. Share this meaningful Christmas celebration with your entire family as you enjoy performances by the Salina Symphony, Iron Street Dance Company, Tamara Howe School of Dance, Community Chorus, Kansas Wesleyan University Chorale, Salina Youth Choir as well as a special early visit from Santa Claus! Tickets may be purchased at the Stiefel Theatre Box Office, by calling (785) 827-1998 or online at www.salinasymphony.org. Single admission is \$29 or \$39 and \$19 for students/children. Please visit the Salina Symphony website for information about the Stiefel Theatre's COVID-19 policy. For more information, contact

Adrienne Allen at (785) 823-8309 or visit salinasymphony.org.

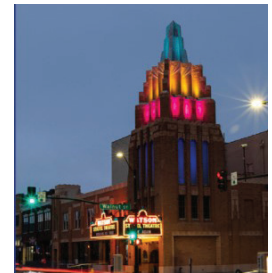


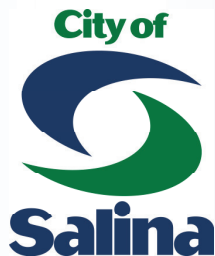
at salinatheatre.com. Or go to the box office at the theatre, Monday through Friday, 11:30am-5:30pm.

Kansas Wesleyan University will present one of Salina's most beloved traditions, Christmas by Candlelight, Dec. 5. Concerts will take place at 3pm and 7pm. This year's theme is "Born for Us on Earth Below." Admission is free and seating is general admission.



The Stiefel Theatre is excited to bring you even MORE in December. My Bluegrass Heart (Dec. 3) will be a special evening, featuring banjo artist Bela Fleck with Sam Bush, Jerry Douglas, Stuart Duncan, Edgar Meyer & Bryan Sutton. Fan favorite vocal-only Country group Home Free (Dec. 16) are set to bring their joyful harmony heat to the deep freeze of the 2021 holiday season, with their WARMEST WINTER HOLIDAY TOUR. Tickets are available for these and other future shows at the Stiefel Box Office or online at stiefeltheatre.org.





City of Salina to Host Public Meeting on Smoky Hill River Renewal Project

The City, with the help of HDR, will provide an update on the status of the Smoky Hill River Renewal Project.

The update will include the following:

- United States Army Corps of Engineer - Section 1135 Smoky Hill River Renewal Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study
- City of Salina – Smoky Hill River Renewal Project

Wednesday, December 1, 2021
5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Open House
6:00 p.m. Presentation

Tony’s Pizza Event Center Complex
Great Plains Manufacturing Convention Hall
800 The Midway
Salina, Kansas 67401



Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. Attendees may come to view exhibits and speak with project representatives. A formal presentation, lasting approximately 30 minutes, will begin at 6:00 p.m. The formal presentation will be broadcast on the City of Salina’s Facebook page and on Cox Cable Channel 20.

Public input has been continuously incorporated into the Smoky Hill River Renewal Project throughout the planning process. The public is once again being asked to provide feedback, prior to the project moving into the design and construction of Phase I of the Smoky Hill River Renewal Project.

Specific questions regarding the project should be directed to Martha Tasker, City of Salina Utilities Director, at martha.tasker@salina.org or (785)309-5725. For further information about the project, visit salinaks.gov/riverrenewal.

ADA Notice: For needed accommodations, contact Community Relations at community.relations@salina.org or (785)309-5745, (785)309-5747 (TDD) between the hours of 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Every effort will be made to offer reasonable accommodations for known disabilities.

NEWS RELEASE

RELEASE DATE:
IMMEDIATELY

CONTACT:
 Martha Tasker
 Director of Utilities
 785-309-5725
Martha.Tasker@salina.org

DATE SUBMITTED:
November 17, 2021

City of Salina
300 W. Ash
P.O. Box 736
Salina, KS 67401
www.salina-ks.gov



Happy Holidays

from the
Salina Area Chamber
of Commerce Staff



BUSINESS *after* HOURS



Thursday, December 9

BARON MUSHMOUSE

141 S. Santa Fe

5-7pm - \$5 per person or Fast Pass

Join us for food, libations, conversations, and Holiday cheer. Baron Mushmouse is located Downtown, and is Open Daily. This new boutique features a stunning collection of home décor, interior design, stationery, garden décor, clothing and accessories. So many things to fall in love with!

**COME OUT AND SEE WHAT
Baron Mushmouse has to offer!**

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

**2022 BUSINESS AFTER
HOURS FAST PASSES
ARE NOW AVAILABLE!**

Remember, these provide you admittance to every BAH event in the year, and are \$50 each. Please contact LaCrista at
lbrightbill@salinakansas.org
or (785) 827-9310, x124 to get yours ordered.

Download the

SALINA

67401 App!



FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



CLICK **Salina Chamber
of Commerce**

CLICK **Visit Salina** CLICK

Imagine Salina CLICK



NEED
EMPLOYEE
GIFT IDEAS?

**Smoky Hill
Silver**
certificates

Available in
\$10 & \$25 Certificates

Call the Salina Area Chamber of
Commerce to order in advance
785-827-9301

CALL AHEAD
TO ORDER!

