

CHAMBER CONNECTION

A Publication of the Salina Area Chamber of Commerce

June 2023 Volume 63, Number 6



entertainment



art




JUNE 8-11



kids



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Smoky Hill River Festival June 8-11
Oakdale Park

Business After Hours June 22
Wedel Financial Group – 144 S. Santa Fe 5-7pm

Ribbon Cutting June 22
Salina Reg'l Occupational Health Partners
1001 S. Ohio 3pm

Details inside!



food





Salina

Area Chamber of Commerce

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

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From the President/CEO



Renee Duxler

Salina has events and activities to enjoy all year long, but it's no secret that summer is when our community really shines. Between our zoo, the Stiefel Theatre, First Fridays in downtown, Kenwood Cove, our parks and trails, and our businesses... Salina is brimming with energy and activity during the summer.

But the major reason that Salina is on everyone's radar during the summer is of course the Smoky Hill River Festival. For over 40 years this event not only brings the community together for connectivity and engagement, but it also draws in crowds from across the state and Midwest to take part in this premier arts and cultural event. Over the course of the 4-day festival, over 50,000 people fill up Oakdale Park to take part in a celebration of art, music, food and community. It is a thriving testimony to the love, quality, pride, and beauty put into the development of this place.

Additionally, along with City of Salina Arts and Humanities there is a significant amount of support from our local business community, non-profit organizations, and other local government departments that work in concert to pull this significant event off for all of us. For those of you who donate your time, talent, and treasure, we are truly grateful.

For the Chamber, June also brings another year of our leadership development program, Leadership Salina. This nine-week course that follows the Kansas Leadership Center (KLC) civic leadership competencies is intended to ignite a passion for civic engagement and community leadership. Many of our community and business leaders are Leadership Salina alumni, and we're exceptionally proud of this first-rate opportunity for local professionals.

Check out this month's newsletter for more information on this year's River Festival, the application process for Leadership Salina, and all the other exciting business and economic development news in our community. Happy Summer!

Best,

Renee Duxler, President/CEO

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Summer is Officially Here!

It's time for Smoky Hill River Festival!

-from Salina Arts & Humanities

The 47th Smoky Hill River Festival will happen June 8-11 in Oakdale Park. The event will include many changes in food offerings and activities.

Festival gates will open at 4pm on Thursday, June 8, with 35 food booths, an art patron party, and the Festival Jam produced by S.M. Hanson Music. Music starts at 6pm and includes 20 bands playing during the four hours.

Friday highlights of the Festival include 120 exhibiting artists from 19 states, including 64 first-time artists. There are items to purchase for every budget, ranging from \$5 to \$10,000. More than 20 site-specific art installations will provide inspiration and surprises throughout the park all weekend long.

A few new art installations include "Wind-O-River," installed on the Mulberry Bridge, by Salina artist Rich Bergen. His kinetic sculpture will provide dazzling color as patrons enter the park. "Steller Dodecahedron", by Lawrence, KS artist Alicia Kelly will install a large-scale inflatable sculpture near the poetry wall. New murals will also take place, including Hutchinson artist Brady Scott painting "Robins In Bloom." After the Festival, his finished work will be installed around a downtown trash corral.



There will be 56 hours of musical performances on three stages on Friday and Saturday, including many new bands making their first appearance at the Festival. This year's sounds include country, rock, soul, indie folk, and innovative fusion groups.

Artyopolis, an interactive children's area full of arts, crafts, face painting, and games, will also feature a new area called Construction Junction, a maker's place for kids. Kids can work with unique materials as they create large-scale art. Creation Crossing will feature free arts and crafts, and Festival favorites Lego Lane and Button Boulevard will also return.



Friday night concludes with Paramount taking the Eric Stein Stage. In addition to the performance, there will be giveaways and a balloon artist, and patrons are encouraged to dress in 80's attire.

Saturday begins early as Salina Regional Health Center volunteers prepare for the 42nd Smoky Hill River Run. The event includes a two-mile walk, children's races, and a two-mile and five-mile electronically timed race. Salina Regional staff have rebranded the race this year and will utilize more than 100 volunteers throughout the morning.



Kids and families rush into the park when the gates open to get a spot at First Treasures on Saturday, a special patron tent for kids 4-13 years old. Participants can select hundreds of items priced from \$1 to \$5, provided by exhibiting artists. "This program helps kids learn the power of patronage," said Crystal Hammerschmidt, Visual Arts Coordinator. "Some kids who have aged out of the program are now regular patrons in the art show." She also stated that sales are among the most important factors in artists choosing to come to the Festival.

Saturday Night features the alternative rock band Welshly Arms playing diverse music with rock, gospel, and blues influences. The Cleveland, OH group has been used by major brands, including ESPN, MLB, NFL, NASCAR, and films such as Underground 6.

cont'd



Festival staff announced a variety of changes for Sunday, including a strong local flavor in music, a less hectic environment, and a unique scavenger hunt featuring 100 hand-painted dragonflies that will be hidden throughout the park. Kansas City-based painter and illustrator Evan “Doodle Dood” Brown is painting a flight of colorful metal dragonflies. Additionally, ten dragonflies will be hidden in the park on Friday and Saturday, giving attendees a sneak peek at the creations.

Food Row will feature ten new food vendors and some returning favorites throughout the weekend. Unique fares include Moink Balls, a Fried Lasagna Sandwich, Cotton Candy, and Picklepenos.

The Festival’s new brand, designed by Salina graphic artist Eric Montoy, is featured on this year’s Festival t-shirt. The gradient-colored shirts are available in the Salina Arts & Humanities offices, online, or at the Festival.

In addition to art, food, music, and activities for kids, the Smoky Hill River Festival relies on approximately 2,000 volunteers each year. “Volunteers are the backbone of the Festival,” commented Executive Director Brad Anderson. “We need help with hospitality, in Artyopolis, in technical areas, and at the gates. It’s a great way for people to help the community and keep costs down,” he said.

Other highlights include mobility scooters available to rent, and a courtesy golf cart shuttle service around the park by Presbyterian Manor, to make the Festival as accessible as possible.

*Admission to the River Festival is by weekend wristband (\$15 in advance, \$20 at the gate) available in many local locations and regional cities, or by daily wristband (\$10, sold only at the gate). Children 11 and under get in free. See a list of all local or regional wristband retailers at: <https://www.riverfestival.com/participating-retailers/>. General Festival hours are Thursday, June 9, from 4 pm to 10 pm, Friday and Saturday, from 10 am to 10 pm, and Sunday, June 12, from 10 am to 5 pm.



For more information and details or to see volunteer opportunities, visit riverfestival.com or call 785-309-5770.

For needed accommodations, please call Amanda Morris at Salina Arts & Humanities at 785-309-5770 between 8:00 am - Noon and 1:00 – 5:00 pm. Every effort will be made to accommodate known disabilities. For material or speech access, please call at least five working days before the event.

Salina Arts & Humanities, a department of the City of Salina, has served a unique role as an arts advocate and resource partner since 1966. The Smoky Hill River Festival, Horizons Grants Program, Smoky Hill Museum, Arts Infusion Program in schools, Community Art & Design, and Creative Connections are among the programs of Salina Arts & Humanities, located at 211 W. Iron Avenue in Salina.



A huge thank you to Lauren Driscoll, Director of Community and Development Services, for being the Quarterly Luncheon speaker on May 16th for our second quarter meeting. Quarterly Luncheons are open to investors at the Builder tier and above. If you are interested in becoming a member or upgrading your current membership tier to include this benefit (along with some other great benefits), please contact Ashley Finan at afinan@salinakansas.org.



JUNE EVENTS

JOIN OUR TEAM :

- **Book Club Discussion**
June 13th
5:15 PM
BE Wealth-1041 S Ohio Street
- **Lunch and Learn – Know Your Community; Juneteenth Celebration**
June 16th
12:00 Noon
Visit Salina Annex-120 W. Ash behind the Chamber Building
- **Family Summer BBQ**
June 24th
1:00 – 3:00 PM
Oakdale Park

RSVP REQUIRED

 salinakansas.org/events



RIBBON CUTTINGS

& Open Houses!



Salina Regional Occupational Health Partners is hosting an Open House on Thursday, June 22nd from 3–6pm as they move to their new location at 1001 S. Ohio. We will begin the festivities with a Ribbon Cutting followed by tours that will be provided until 6pm by Occupational Health Partners.

Guests are encouraged to park anywhere in the front or back parking lot and enter the front door that faces Ohio. Food and tours will be available until 6pm.



Revive Integrative Health celebrated with a Ribbon Cutting recently. Shown here are:

Back row l-r: Renee Duxler, Emily Hoover, Brittany Husereau, Jada Koch, Sarah Wedel, Jacee Rietbrock, Katie Adamson, Valerie Andrews, Hayley Samford; Front Row l-r: Shannon Gotti, Cara Emig, Jeni Adams, Shayla Trost, Laura Love, Kourtney Kincaid, Audrey George, Stephanie Gillig



**HAVE SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE AT YOUR BUSINESS?
AN EXPANSION? ANNIVERSARY? AWARD?**

Consider a Bluecoat Ribbon Cutting to help celebrate the occasion.
For more information, contact **Stephanie Gillig** at: sgillig@salinakansas.org
or 785-827-9310, ext. 124



WE LOVE OUR AG COMMITTEE!!!!

How do things like the Mid America Farm Expo and the Jr. Dairy Show happen? You are looking at it right here in this picture. It takes a family to coordinate these successful events and this group is definitely a family! We hosted a steak supper in appreciation for the Ag Committee members on May 8th...we missed a few of our members but ate enough for them all! Thank you all for your hard work, commitment, flexibility and great attitudes!



THE 2023 LEADERSHIP SALINA PROGRAM IS COMING SOON!

What is the Leadership Salina program you ask? The program is a 9 session course starting in August and continuing through November. Leadership Salina follows the Kansas Leadership Center (KLC) Civic Leadership Competencies while igniting a passion for civic engagement and community leadership.

Tuition is \$600 per person which covers all materials, meals, social functions and a day in Wichita at KLC. There are a limited number of scholarships available upon request and could cover up to half of the tuition fee.

The Leadership Salina program is hosted by the Salina Area Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Salina Community Foundation and is facilitated by Amanda Michaelis Littell.

Email Stephanie Gillig at sgillig@salinakansas.org or call 785-827-9310 for more detailed information and/or to request an application. Applications will be due to Stephanie by 5:00 p.m. on July 7th, 2023.



Leadership Class of 2022



In The News



The [Kansas Wesleyan](#) Marketing and Communications Office received two Communicator Awards, earlier this month. KWU won Awards of Excellence, the organization's top-level honor, for feature articles written about Judge Angela Coble, '94, written by Jean Kozubowski, current assistant director of marketing and communications, and Stefanie Milam, '02m, written by Karen Bonar, former associate coordinator. The awards are the 10th and 11th major honors, nine of which have been national recognitions, for KWU's MARCOM staff since May 2020. Congratulations!

[Rolling Hills Zoo](#) announces that Oskar, a three-year-old male African lion has become part of the zoo's Pride of the Prairie exhibit. There is hope that sisters Zalika and Kamali, already residents of the pride, are compatible with Oskar, which could lead to additions in the future. He has completed a 30-day quarantine, and once he is ready to leave his sleeping quarters he will be in the dayroom while the females are outside, rotating daily to allow all time outside while they become acquainted. According to a zoo press release, this 'dating' process will take time, but once the keepers feel comfortable with putting them together, they will do so.



WELCOME ABOARD

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GOT NEWS?

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



[Salina Family Healthcare Center](#) and American Heart Association are presenting CPR/AED/First Aid classes at the Salina Family Healthcare Center, 651 E. Prescott. The cost is \$75 per person, and the certification is good for two years. Registration is required by contacting Outreach Dept. at 785-825-7251, ext 642. Dates for classes are: Saturday, June 3, 8am-Noon; Wednesday, June 7, 1-5pm; Saturday, July 8, 9am-1pm; and Tuesday, June 11, 5-9pm.



These four professional pilot students from [K-State Salina](#) will compete in the national Women's Air Race Classic, a national flight racing competition, from June 20-23. Pictured are from left: Venus Thanasouk, Yulissa Hernandez, Natalie Novak and Roxana Linares. *Photo courtesy K-State Salina.*

THANK YOU

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

- ▶ Ad Astra Books and Coffee House
- ▶ Angels Care Home Health
- ▶ Catlett Automotive - NAPA
- ▶ cohort.digital
- ▶ Dairy Queen No. 1
- ▶ Horizon Farm & Ranch Realty, LLC
- ▶ Independent Connection Inc.
- ▶ Senator Roger Marshall
- ▶ Midwest Music, Inc.
- ▶ Nex-Tech
- ▶ PB & J
- ▶ Russell's Restaurant
- ▶ Schwerdtfager Masonry LLC
- ▶ Shift Your Perspective Life & Leadership Coaching
- ▶ St. John's Missionary Baptist Church

CHOOSE SALINE COUNTY Local Shopping Local Rewards Local Growth

I love this program so far to go shop with "free" money. Makes me rethink where I shop if I know I will earn stars. Please keep this program!
-Christy-

I just wanted to let everyone know how AWESOME the Choose Saline County app is! I do so much more local shopping now that I have the stars!
-Miss-

Download the App Today!

Thank You



In The News...

Anita K. Miller, CFP®, APMA®, CRPC®, CEPA®, a private wealth advisor with [Ironstone Wealth Advisors](#) in Salina, has qualified for Ameriprise Financial's Circle of Success annual recognition program and will be honored for this achievement in 2023. To earn this achievement, Miller and her team have established themselves amongst the company's top advisors. Only a select number of high-performing advisors earn this distinction. Miller has 25 years of experience with Ameriprise Financial. She works together with financial advisors Angela Holt, CFP®, BFA™, APMA®, Hannah Hahn, CRPC® and Emily Page, CRPC®, APMA®, as well as their dedicated support staff.



Where in Salina am I?



Answer: Campbell Plaza Downtown!

[Crown Distributors](#) earned SHARP (Safety & Health Achievement Recognition Program) accreditation, only the 2nd beverage wholesaler in the state of Kansas. The program recognizes small business employers who have used OSHA's On-Site Consultation Program services and operate exemplary safety and health programs. Acceptance of a worksite into SHARP from OSHA is an achievement of status that singles out businesses as models to their peers as for worksite safety and health.



Picture: Left to Right
Kevin Boyer, Operations Service Manage); Nick Kelly, VP of Operations; Laurie Wolfe, Safety/Ergonomics Consultant-Kansas Dept. of Labor; Charles Haines, Administrative Assistant; Shelly Briley, SHARP Coordinator-KDOL; Kyle Koster, Crown Distributors Operations Manager; Andy Frank, General Sales Manager; Todd Underwood, OSHA Area Director-US Dept. of Labor; Allen Vinyard, CSP Director-KDOL.



Answer: Mid-America Farm Expo at Tony's Pizza Events Center!

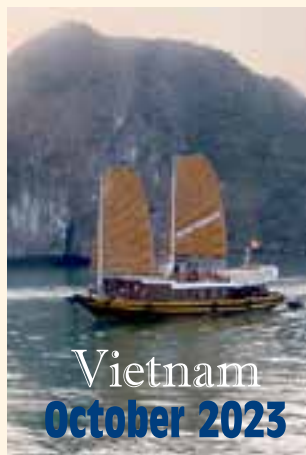
[Salina Family Healthcare Center](#) and American Heart Association are presenting CPR/AED/First Aid classes at the Salina Family Healthcare Center, 651 E. Prescott. The cost is \$75 per person, and the certification is good for two years. Registration is required by contacting Outreach Dept. at 785-825-7251, ext 642. Dates for classes are: Saturday, June 3, 8am-Noon; Wednesday, June 7, 1-5pm; Saturday, July 8, 9am-1pm; and Tuesday, June 11, 5-9pm.



Answer: The Sullivan!



CHAMBER International Trips!



Vietnam
October 2023

Australia & New Zealand
March 2024

Places still available on both experiences.
Contact Sandy today scole@salinakansas.org
or 785.827.9310, ext 123

Marquee Welcomes

June

- 3-4 USA Dick's Sporting Goods "Fun in the Sun" Softball Tournament
- 3 Salina Symphony at Sunset (Abilene)
- 8-11 Smoky Hill River Festival artists, vendors, musicians and visitors!
- 18 Rolling Hills Zoo Father's Day Car Show
- 24-25 MAYB Basketball
USA National Invitational Fast Pitch Softball Tournament
- 29-30 29th Annual Grand Slam Baseball Tournament

July

- 1-2 29th Annual Grand Slam Baseball Tournament



The [Salina Crossroads Marathon](#) reported in May that more than 2,100 people have registered for the November 4th race day! Their registered racers in 2022, the first year of the event, was 817 from 30 states. This year, the race – a Boston Marathon qualifier – will have runners from all 50 states, Canada and Mexico. Their goal is to be one of the THE premier marathons in Kansas.



Have you registered?

Registration fees are:

- Marathon-\$75 (\$85 after October 1st)
- Half Marathon-\$55 (\$65 after October 1st)
- 5K Run-\$25
- 5K Walk-\$25
- Half Mile Kids Fun Run-\$15
- Marathon Relay (\$25 per team member)
- Half Marathon Relay (\$30 per team member)

To access the event registration, [click here](#).

SculptureTour Salina Unwraps exciting pieces!

The 2023 SculptureTour Salina exhibit is now open for viewing! Several hundred people came together on Saturday, May 6 to watch 22 sculptures be unwrapped for public viewing for the next year. The sculpture winning the Juror's "Best of Show" award was "Mr. Hatter's Pursuits in Becoming Human: 004 Golden Sphere" by Brady Hatter, a Wichita artist.



Brochures with maps and ballots are available for everyone to vote for their favorite sculpture. **EVERYONE** is eligible to vote – all ages, residents of Salina, or visitors to our community. Grab a ballot from one of the silver boxes located downtown on the columns of the mid-block pedestrian crosswalks on Santa Fe. Many downtown merchants also have them available, as do the Chamber, Visit Salina and

Salina Downtown offices. The sculpture with the most votes cast by December 31, 2023 will be designated the People's Choice, and will be purchased by the City of Salina to become part of our permanent public art collection. Now in our 13th year, more than 40 sculptures have been sold locally, including the People's Choice winners. Learn more at sculpturetoursalina.net





SUMMER HOURS OF OPERATION

Beginning Friday, June 1

MONDAY - THURSDAY

8AM - 5PM

FRIDAY

8AM - 1PM

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



*Salina Chamber
of Commerce*



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\$It Pays to Attend\$

Big Booty Trudy's – May 4



Big Booty Trudy's had a great BAH event on May 4. Attendees enjoyed great refreshments and live music on their outdoor patio.



Attendance Prize Winner Marie Lee from The Bank of Tescott accepts her 'check' from Blue Coat Ambassador Jeni Adams.



JUNE

Mark your calendars to attend the following Business After Hours in June.

WEDEL FINANCIAL GROUP
144 S. SANTA FE



THUR.
06-22
5:00-7:00 PM

BUSINESS
After Hours

RESERVATIONS ENCOURAGED

785-827-9301

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67401 App*

Salina
Area Chamber of Commerce

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



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