CHAMBER CONNECTION

A Publication of the Salina Area Chamber of Commerce

November-December 2020 Volume 60, Number 7

Sales tax TH!NK w stores shops 15 SALINA Policity 1



SCOMMUNITY entertainmen

AT A GLANCE...

November 12

Virtual Workshop "Leading Through Adverse Times" Noon-1:00pm

December 17

Virtual Workshop "Taking Care of Yourself in a time of Disruptive Leadership"

11:30am-1:00pm

Details inside!

BUYING LOCAL STIMULATES THE ECONOMY

New guidelines for SPARK Grant

See Page 3



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

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ONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

NOW MORE THAN EVER, SHOPPING LOCAL MATTERS!

by Eric Brown, Chamber President/CEO

You might not realize it, but every time you step foot into a local boutique, get your haircut, or purchase a gift from any of the retailers in Saline County, you're shopping small and making a difference.

According to a study by American Express in 2018, for every dollar spent at a small business in the U.S., approximately 67 cents stays in the local community. So, when you shop locally, hopefully all year long, you can help create a big impact!

Spending locally creates a re-circulation of money that is responsible for a local multiplier effect. This is an extremely valuable feature of our local economy and as this money passes through more hands in the local economy, more and more people locally benefit from it. Dollars, entering the

local economy and circulating ten times, acts like ten times their original amount, thus increasing revenue and income opportunities for other local businesses. However, money in the local economy stops circulating at the point

an outside purchase is made. Sales tax revenue accounts for a large portion of our local governmental budgets. Buying online ultimately exports consumer dollars

outside of the region. One million dollars spent in this way derives only a one-time use of such funds in the local economy, rather than several million.

The pandemic has shone a light on the

American consumer culture to prioritize online retailers over local store purchases given the circumstances around consumers safety and well-being. Many stores and service providers

did everything they could to take their goods and services online, including delivery, curbside pickup, and setting aside specific time frames for high risk individual to visit their stores

Research shows a strong correlation between the percentages of locally owned businesses and community health and vitality. When making any purchase of goods or services, our hope is that our members and community members at large, think Salina first about where they can spend their money locally. We know that those dollars continue to work for us by funding critical

public services and by making our communities vibrant places where business can thrive.

We're not going to be able to convince everybody to stop their purchases online, as on occasion the product isn't available

locally. The hope and ask is for both individual consumers and businesses to think and research first a local option before purchasing online or outside of Salina.

The other side of the pandemic coin has seen a strong response in federal and state aid to local communities and economies. The Salina Area Chamber of Commerce Foundation in

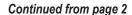
Continued on page 3



Eric L. Brown Chamber President/CEO

THINK. SHOP. BUY

HERE'S HOW TO CONTACT OUR CHAMBER STAFF



partnership with Saline County has been given the opportunity to grant funds directly to any business in Saline County that has experienced at least a 15% gross revenue loss due to the effects of COVID-19 and the state mandated Stay at Home order. The Salina Area Chamber of Commerce Foundation, in partnership with Saline County, Kansas, is assisting small businesses seeking capital in response to the negative economic impacts of COVID-19 from the Strengthening People and Revitalizing Kansas (SPARK) Small Business Grant Fund.

The Salina Area Chamber of Commerce Foundation program offers grants of up to \$50,000 to eligible small for-profit and non-profit businesses. The amount of a grant is to reimburse for costs and loss of income due to the business interruption impact of COVID-19. The grant amount is calculated based on \$5,000 per eligible employee. The total funds available under this grant program are \$2,693,313.71.

There is no guarantee the maximum amount will be granted to a business, but we encourage businesses to visit our website to check eligibility.

UPDATED CRITERIA

- Saline County business
- Total revenue less than \$5 million
- Less than 100 employees
- Experienced reduction in revenue of at least 15%, comparing Jan-Jun 2019 and Jan-June 2020
- Grant of \$5,000 per eligible employee, cap of \$50,000, up to amount of net revenue loss

APPLY HERE!



Lights, Camera...Sizzle!

The Imagine Salina campaign is coming to life with the launch of the website in January, and now some serious marketing tools and resources being developed. The campaign will soon have a 'sizzle video' that is intended to highlight the creative and innovative spirit of Salina and will be available for employers and residents to share and utilize. The team is also working on creating more



content for the website, including videos, blogs and printable one-sheet resources on jobs, housing, education, entrepreneurship, and quality of life. You can check out the website at www.imaginesalina.com, and be sure to follow Imagine Salina on Facebook and Instagram.

As a part of the campaign, the Chamber is also continuing to look at expanding our Trailing Spouse and Customized Tour programs. The Trailing Spouse program helps link resumes/skill sets of spouses or partners who are also

relocating to Salina, with HR contacts throughout the community. The Customized Tour program is

> for employers who are interviewing potential candidates from out-of-town and would like to further introduce the community through a tour with Chamber staff. To access or ask questions about these programs, email Renee Duxler at rduxler@salinakansas.org.



Chamber Board Election Underway

Salina Area Chamber of Commerce OFFICIAL
ELECTION BALLOT
2021 Board of Directors
Vote for maximum of four (4) Terry Hauschel, VP of Operations Salina Regional Health Center Tim Holm, Dealer Holm Buick GMC Lori Perez, Owner/Operator Bill Roberts, Owner/Operator State Farm Insurance Agency Sanity Boutique Susan Trafton, General Manage Tony's Pizza Events Center Chris Wiseman, Sr. Director of Mfg. Schwan's Global Supply Chain, Inc. Susan Young, VP, HR Officer Bennington State Bank Recheck - Vote for a maximum of four (4) Return by 5pm, November 13, 2020

The primary contact(s) of each member business should have received the 2021 Board Ballot. The ballot lists eight (8) candidates. Please vote for a maximum of four (4). The four receiving the highest number of votes will be elected to serve a four-year term on your Chamber Board. The newly elected directors will join these returning directors, and two appointed by incoming Chairman Jeff Maes to form the 2021 Board: Kristy Balthazor, David Disberger, Jane Gates, James Lambert, Andrew, Manley, Larry Michel, Scott Owings, MD, Maria Rapp, DC, Amber Renfro, Bonnie Sanderson, Gary Stansberry, Dr. Alysia Starkey, Loren Young and Travis Young.

The deadline to return your ballot is 5pm, November 13, 2020.

Marquee**Welcomes**WELCOME TO SALINA!

Hunters!

Holiday Shoppers!

Nov 28

KSHSAA 2A State Football



Take a look at the estimated visitor spending of groups that Visit Salina has recently worked with:

Sept 26

Crossroads Rock & Rod Show

\$6,038

Sept 27

IFA Fall Fast Pitch Tournament

\$ 63,360

Oct 4

IFA Fall Fast Pitch Tournament

\$114.048

Oct 19

KSHSAA Girls 5A State Golf

\$ 44.952

Oct 24

Sharp Performance Run Dead 5K

\$ 1.550

Oct 30-31

KSHSAA 5A/6A State Volleyball

\$139,846

You can access the digital version of the November-December issue at

ChamberNet here!

Rice Receives Governor's Award

The Salina Area Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce that Sylvia Rice, Director of Visit Salina is the recipient of the annual Governor's Tourism Award presented October 21, 2020 at the virtual Kansas Tourism Conference.

Governor Laura Kelly shared how Sylvia Rice exemplifies the significance of this prestigious award. "Sylvia Rice has helped to positively shape nearly every tourism industry-related organization in Kansas. She is an example to us all on how to be a positive change-maker in a local community and

is an inspiration to the entire tourism industry in Kansas," said Governor Kelly.

The Governor's Tourism award was established in 1983 to recognize outstanding contributions to the Kansas travel and tourism industry. The award is presented to an individual or organization that

demonstrates cooperation, sustainability, quality and accountability in their support of the overall growth of the tourism in Kansas.

Sylvia joined the Chamber/Visit Salina in 1991. Throughout her time at the Chamber, Sylvia has championed many local and statewide tourism programs and initiatives. She has been a leader in numerous statewide tourism coalitions such as the Travel Industry Association of Kansas (TIAK), where she served on the executive committee for more than five years, chaired multiple committees and served as the TIAK president in 2007. Sylvia is a long-time board member/officer of the Kansas I-70 Association, which promotes communities along I-70 to travelers. She also helped form Meet Kansas, a coalition that advocates

Kansas as a meeting and convention destination.

Prior to her work at the Salina Chamber, Sylvia had a background centered in the hotel industry. Sylvia has always provided exceptional hospitality and continues to be an inspirational cheerleader for Kansas. On a local level, Sylvia is passionate about promoting tourism to the Salina area. Sylvia was the first to create a local Salina comprehensive marketing plan that included not only the leisure traveler, but tourism to several market segments including groups, conventions, sports,

events, cultural travelers, motor coach and more. Sylvia is second to none at sharing all that Salina offers visitors and marketing Salina's events and attractions. Svlvia has worked on, and positively influenced, several highprofile projects. Those nearest to her heart include the Smoky



Sylvia Rice
Director of Visit Salina

Hill River Festival, Chamber Annual Meetings, Virgin Atlantic Global Flyer, Salina Downtown, Kustom Kemps of America Leadsled Spectacular, SculptureTour Salina, KSHSAA State High School Events, Imagine Salina, Cultural Arts Regional Marketing (CARM), and the opening of attractions including Rolling Hills Zoo & Museum, Stiefel Theatre, Kenwood Cove and others.

"Sylvia is so very deserving of this award. We are fortunate to have her expertise and dedication on our staff. She's done so much for Salina tourism and now is fittingly being recognized as a leader in the tourism industry throughout the state of Kansas. Thank you and congratulations Sylvia!," said Eric Brown, President & CEO of the Salina Area Chamber of Commerce.



GOOD SPORTS!



Visit Salina is pleased to host the **KSHSAA 2A State Football Championship.** The event will be played the Saturday following Thanksgiving Day, November 28 at Salina Stadium with a 1pm kick-off.

"Football has traditionally been a wonderful event for Salina to host!" expressed Tiffany Benien, Visit Salina Sports & Events Manager. "Salina enjoys hosting the 2A Class, and in 2020 it is such a blessing that we can continue holding the event. While we will certainly have limitations on the stadium capacity and will implement several safety precautions due to COVID-19, I know we'll have a great following from fans wanting to enjoy an afternoon football game. We hope they will continue their Salina experience beyond the game by dining in our restaurants and staying in our hotels. With a little good fortune, we'll have great weather and that makes competing for the title even more fun!"

Estimated economic impact for the event is \$150,000 for the Salina community. This is about half of what we estimated in 2019, adjusted for limited seating and fewer fans likely staying the night due to COVID-19

precautions.

This event requires several community volunteers. Tasks include team hosts, officials' hosts, press box personnel, pass gate workers, concession workers, ticket sellers, ticket takers, and program & t-shirt sellers. If you would like to help please contact Tiffany Benien at the Chamber by phone (785) 827-9310 x 130 or e-mail tbenien@salinakansas.org.

The 2A District and State matchups are posted at www.KSHSAA.org.



Television Campaign Underway to Visit Salina

A series of 15-second television spots are airing on both KSN-TV (NBC affiliate) and KWCH-TV (CBS affiliate) to promote Salina as a destination. The spots present a 'soft message' that when people are ready to travel, Salina is ready to welcome them. These spots mark our re-integration into the television medium after a months-long hiatus due to COVID-19, the subsequent restrictions, loss of travel, and the resulting necessary reductions in the Visit Salina marketing budget. "We want to invite people to visit when they feel secure in traveling," said Sylvia Rice, Visit

Salina Director. "Certainly, our hotels, restaurants, retail shops, attractions and general businesses want to see that important visitor activity rebound, as it is responsible for a significant portion of revenue in the business community."

Virtual Leadership Workshops

The Chamber will continue presenting virtual leadership workshops in November and December. On November 12, from Noon to 1:00pm Katie Pembleton with Common Thread Coaching and Consulting will present "Leading Through Adverse Times". Amanda Michaelis with Shift Your Perspective Life & Leadership Coaching will present the December 17th workshop from 11:30am-1:00pm, entitles "Taking Care of Yourself in a time of Disruptive Leadership".

Register for these workshops on the Chamber website, www.salinakansas.org. The cost is \$20 for Chamber members, and \$40 for non-members. If you have questions, contact LaCrista Brightbill at lbrightbill@salinakansas.org.

Salina is Open for Business!

As a way to promote getting out into the local business community, Chamber staff has produced some fun videos to remind everyone to frequent our member businesses. The videos are being posted on our social marketing platforms, resulting in likes, shares and some nice traction. A variety of businesses participated by providing a quick message on-site from their locations. From banks to attractions, restaurants to retail operations, the message is clear, concise, and consistent – Salina is Open for Business!

If you would like for your business to be featured in a future spot, contact Tiffany Benien at tbenien@salinakansas.org

(785) 827-9310, x 130





WELCOME ABOARD

New Members

FIRST TEE - SALINA

Erik Bonar 2500 E. Crawford St. (785) 833-8227

TUMBLWEED LLC

Jeni Jones 5680 W. Old Hwy 40 (785) 342-0410

SALINA SPINE, SPORT & REHAB

Seth Myers 134 S. Santa Fe, Ste. 130 (785) 380-9408

Thank you to these renewing members!

We appreciate your continued support of the Chamber organization, our programs, and services!

- ▶ Border States Electric
- ▶ BT Salina Wholesale Liquor
- Cancer Center of Kansas
- Caregivers Home Health
- ▶ Cave Divers South Liquor Store
- Choices Network, Inc.
- Daimaru Steak House
- ▶ Doug's Heating and Air Inc.
- ▶ GSI Engineering, LLC
- ▶ Hall Contracting, Inc.
- ▶ Hampton Financial, LLC
- Wink Hartman
- ▶ Jalisco Mexican Restaurant
- Janzen Marketing, LLC
- Jimmy John's Gourmet Sandwiches
- KARA Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Assn

- ▶ Landscape Consultants, LLC
- Larry's Transmission Repair, Inc.
- ▶ Millwood Realty Gary Norris
- Networks Plus
- ▶ Nex-Tech Wireless, LLC
- ▶ Paramount Bar
- ▶ Reece Construction
- ▶ Roberts Hutch-Line, Inc.
- ▶ Salina Diocese
- Salina Liberty
- Salina Tree, Inc.
- ▶ Sky Trampoline Park
- ▶ Tony's Pizza Events Center
- ▶ The Voo
- You and Your Surroundings





R&J TAX SERVICE & ACCOUNTING

Please provide a three-sentence summary of your personal background. I am a North Salina native and have always worked in the customer service industry. I started as tow truck driver, then worked at retail stores and went to college. While working my retail job and going to college, I started as an intern at R & J Salina Tax Service back in 2001. In 2011, I received my Enrolled Agent License and took over R & J Salina Tax Service, Inc. in 2014

What is it about your business that is unique or special? What separates you from your competitors?

R & J is a locally owned and operated small business, and during the times that we are dealing with, I think we have adapted well for the way the world is. We are currently adding technology to help us communicate better with our clients and our clients to communicate better with us. We also have other Enrolled Agents on staff that specialize in income tax preparation and representation.

See the entire interview, and others, posted at:

https://www.salinakansas.org/take-5.html

In The News



SALINA FAMILY HEALTHCARE AND SMOKY HILL FAMILY MEDICINE RESIDENCY, 651

E. Prescott, are sporting a 'new look', just released by their marketing director Hayley Samford. At the core of the new brand is a new logo, a medical cross, a recognizable symbol of the healthcare field and healing. In the background of the cross, the negative space forms the subtle curves of an 'S.' This serves as an obvious allusion to Salina, Saline County and our clinic's name, Salina Family Healthcare Center. The 'S' is also drawn to suggest an infinity symbol turned 90 degrees, which represents our enduring commitment to the community and every individual in it. Dr. Robert Kraft. MD serves as CEO/CMO. For more information on their medical, dental, behavioral health, and pharmacy services, go to www.salinahealth.org or call (785) 825-7251. SFHC is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC).



THE COZY INN, 108 N. Seventh, was recently ranked No. 21 on a list of the 101 Best Burgers in America by the website, The Daily Meal. In compiling its list of the 101 best burgers in America, The Daily Meal said it focused on smaller establishments and local favorites but did not limit its search to burger restaurants only. The website scoured Yelp and other review sites, looked at coverage by local journalists and gathered suggestions from readers. The Cozy Inn is owned and operated by Steve Howard.



THE SALINA PUBLIC LIBRARY, 301 W. Elm, recently unveiled their new branding image, as illustrated here. From an April call for proposals, the library ultimately chose Mr. Freeland Design to bring their vision to life. The logo conveys that the library meets diverse needs of their patron, whether that is books, movies, meeting space, or a safe place to hang out. Melanie Hedgespeth is the director. Learn more at salpublib.org. For more information about the library, visit www.salinapubliclibrary.org or call (785) 825-4624. Director of the library is Melanie Hedgespeth.



Bob Jenkins has retired from ROLLING HILLS ZOO, 625 N. Hedville Road. In 2012, Jenkins was hired as the zoo's Executive Director. He has spent his entire career in the public zoo and aquarium profession, with his experience being broadly based at the senior management level. While the search takes place for a new ED, former director Kathy Tolbert will serve as Interim Director. Congratulations Bob!

SUNFLOWER BANK recently gave a total of \$117,835 to schools and students through donations from its ABC Program, including \$19,278 given locally in Salina. Since Sunflower Bank originated the program in 2001, it has contributed over \$1.4 million to support kindergarten through 12th grade education in CO, KS, MO, NM and TX. The ABC Program is funded in part based on customer debit card transactions and new accounts opened, and a "Pay for 'A's contest. Customers select an ABC Program-registered school to support with each qualifying debit card purchase during the campaign. The standard school donation



per transaction is \$0.02*, with special times throughout the year for bonus credits. Public, private and charter schools, as well as parent teacher organizations, in communities with Sunflower Bank or First National 1870 branches are eligible to receive ABC Program support learn more about the ABC Program, speak to your local branch, or visit SunflowerBank.com/ abc or FirstNational1870.com/abc.



OCCK TRANSPORTATION held a groundbreaking ceremony Wednesday, celebrating the start of construction on its transportation facility expansion at 340 N. Santa Fe in Salina. The 16,000 square foot addition to the existing facility will provide additional maintenance facilities, vehicle parking, and expanded driver areas. The project is expected to be completed in mid-2021. The project has been funded through a grant from the Kansas Department of Transportation, with contributions from OCCK, Inc. and the City of Salina.

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 AREA UNITED WAY has moved to their NEW office location at 113 N. Seventh St., Suite 201.



Search for us at Salina Chamber and Visit Salina



WHY ADVERTISE **CHAMBERNET?**

Deadline: November 16, 2020

NEW MEMBER BENEFIT

As a new Chamber member, your first **ChamberNet mailing is** FREE! (\$125 value)





LOW COST

Cost is just \$125 for the first page, \$50 for each additional attached page, and \$60 for each separate additional page. Save up to \$1,700!

Mailing with ChamberNet 1,100 flyers, four (4) times a year	Mailing 1,100 flyers
\$500+ printing costs	\$2.200+ p

orinting costs

CONNECT

ChamberNet gets your business in front of thousands! Your flver(s) will be mailed out to our exclusive mailing list AND a digital copy will be available on our website and social media platforms!



on your own



FREQUENCY

ChamberNet is distributed four times a year. This allows you to advertise seasonal promotions, special events, and business information.

PLEASE PROVIDE 1,100 8.5"X11" FLYERS (NOT FOLDED) TO THE SALINA AREA CHAMBER, 120. W. ASH. THE CHAMBER RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REFUSE SUBMISSIONS, IF NECESSARY.

Questions? Contact the Salina Area Chamber of Commerce 785.827.9301.



Cornerstone Classical School, 830 S. Ninth Street, held a ribbon cutting on September 5th to celebrate the purchase of the former Franklin school building this past June. Congratulations to Cornerstone!



One Office Solution, 111 S. Santa Fe, celebrated their grand opening with a ribbon cutting and open house on October 9th. Welcome to Salina!



Hutton celebrated their new office in Salina, 137 S. Fifth Street, with a 'groundbreaking.' Congratulations!



INA Alert, Inc., Ellinwood, KS celebrated expanding their territories with a ribbon cutting at our Chamber office. Congratulations!



120 W. Ash, P.O. Box 586 • Salina, KS 67402-0586 785-827-9301 • fx 785-827-9758 • www.salinakansas.org

Right place. Right reason. Right now.

salinakansas.org



I VOTED!

did you?

DEADLINE TO VOTE IS DECEMBER 31, 2020.End this year on an upbeat note, and VOTE!

Vote TODAY for your favorite sculpture in the 2020 PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD program of <u>Sculpture Tour Salina</u>. This is our 10th exhibit, 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 a downtown business, the Chamber, Salina Downtown or Visit Salina offices
- Walk the exhibit with your family, friends, co-workers
- Complete the ballot inside the brochure and return to a downtown business or in the silver ballot boxes near mid-block crosswalks.



Download the



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App!



