CHAMBER TO PRESENT 110TH ANNUAL MEETING - VIRTUALLY!
featuring a message in honor of the 20th anniversary of 9/11
See Page 3

MID-AMERICA FARM EXPO RETURNS!
See Page 6

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From the CEO

Entering March 2021, it is hard to believe that it will have been 12 months since COVID entered our lives and left drastic changes to not only our economy but our daily routines. There does seem to be bright light at the end of the tunnel as COVID cases and numbers continue to trend downward.

Unfortunately, not every business in Saline County was able to maintain operations and closed as a direct result of the pandemic, stay at home order, and related public health and safety regulations. Through all of this, it is undeniable that every single business had to make some form of adjustment to their operations, whether it was positive or negative to their bottom lines. Overall, our local economy seemed to fair relatively well based on flat sales tax numbers, the return to our employment numbers prior to March 2020, and the continued capital investment of public and private projects and expansions across our community.

Government assistance through the pandemic has been vital to assisting businesses and people. The quick actions and efforts of the national and state government to approve stimulus packages like PPP and CARES made it possible for many businesses to weather the economic storm of the century and I appreciate the continued partnerships with both the City of Salina and Saline County as they listened and worked hard to get the stimulus monies into the business community. These programs, as impactful and needed as they have been, are not a long-term solution and the American taxpayer will always be the funding source for these relief programs.

The Ag economy found itself in unprecedented times as supply and demand shocks to the food system were felt from the shutdown of parts of the economy. The consequences of the crisis for farmers and their families were immediate and sometimes severe as you saw stories of dairy farmers pouring raw milk on the ground; the immediate and drastic decline in food demand by restaurants and the hospitality industry isolated farmers and food processors from some of their biggest buyers, especially for meat, dairy, and specialty crops.

The road to recovery will be slow but the Chamber’s Ag Committee is excited to press forward with the 56th Annual Mid America Farm Expo and help the ag community get back to business as usual. The Farm Expo brings vendors and farmers and ranchers together in Salina for three days in March to learn about and see the latest in farm technology, machinery, supplies, and learn from national agriculture leaders as well.

Another Chamber staple, our Annual Membership Meeting will look different this year; COVID has dictated the necessity to move our annual meeting to a virtual format. Richard B. Myers, current Kansas State University President, retired four-star general, and 15th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during 9/11, will be the featured speaker and Michael Schwanke, News Anchor with KWCH will be a special guest!

More information on both the Farm Expo and Annual Membership Meeting can be found in this newsletter and online at www.salinakansas.org

Thank you again for your continued support. It is our pleasure representing the business community of Salina!

Best,

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

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Richard B. Myers, current Kansas State University president, retired four-star general, and 15th chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, will be the featured speaker at the Salina Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Membership Meeting.

In addition, Michael Schwanke, news anchor with KWCH, will be a special guest interviewing President Myers and discussing his leadership, military experience, and Salina’s Polytechnic Campus. The event will be held virtually, from noon to 1pm on April 1.

General Richard B. Myers, (USAF, Ret.) returned to his home state and alma mater to serve as Kansas State University’s 14th President. He graduated from the university in 1965 with a Bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering and joined the Air Force through K-State’s ROTC program. The native Kansan from Merriam loyally served his country and retired as a four-star general. From 2001-2005, he served as the 15th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. As chairman, Myers was the highest-ranking uniformed officer of U.S. military forces and served as the principal military adviser to President George W. Bush, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, and the National Security Council.

“While COVID has dictated the necessity to move our annual meeting to a virtual format, we are excited to still be able to share the successes and the future of the Chamber while providing the opportunity to hear from President Myers,” stated Eric Brown, Chamber President/CEO. “Closing in on the 20-year anniversary of 9/11, there is no better individual to tell that story from a firsthand perspective and provide the proper remembrance of 9/11. His unique experience through both the events of his military career and as the President of Kansas State University during another global event, the COVID-19 pandemic, are topics that illustrate far reaching business impacts.”

The annual meeting will be held virtually, individual tickets are $25 per person for access to the virtual event and a $10 Smoky Hill Gift Certificate. Tickets will be in the form of links to the virtual event, which will be emailed to members and the general public.

At ‘press time’, event sponsors included:

Richard B. Myers
President, Kansas State University
Four-Star General, USAF, Ret’d
15th Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

Michael Schwanke
KWCH News Anchor

Sponsorships are available until March 10, and these packages are a great way to market to other local businesses, while at the same time allowing you and your staff to hear from a world class leader. For details regarding the cost and amenities of the sponsorships, please contact Eric Brown at the Chamber office (785) 827-9310, ext. 131.

For more information regarding the event or to purchase your ticket(s) click here.
Job openings illuminate Salina housing shortage

By Tim Unruh for the Salina Airport Authority, January 2021

A hiring spree has ensued at Big Bertha, the massive airplane hangar near the north end of Salina Regional Airport. Demand for airline maintenance is growing quickly there as the lone tenant, 1Vision Aviation, is booking so much work that the company roster must grow.

Owner and manager Jim Sponder is scanning the nation, searching for airframe and powerplant mechanics to satisfy the maintenance needs of airline customers who bring passenger jets to Salina for maintenance. He’s also looking to rent more hangar space from the Salina Airport Authority to house his general aviation operations.

With some 75 employed currently, Sponder aims to soon double his employment. “We need 150 by the end of this month (Jan 2021), and 200 by the end of February (2021),” he said, and 1Vision is back on track to have 450 people working at the hangar by 2022, as was the hope when the company expanded from Sioux City, Iowa. It launched business here Sept. 1, 2019.

It’s an exciting time as Big Bertha once again bulges with people, activity, and aircraft. But there is a hitch. “The story I keep getting from everybody coming is they can’t find a place to live,” Sponder said. “There are no apartments.”

When he moved here in late 2019, Sponder bought a home in Salina, containing several rooms for workers. With those beds taken, the man with a do-it-yourself attitude, is seeking to fix his own worker housing problem. “If I could find some land to build apartments, I would do it,” he said.

Local leaders don’t argue his point. “We know there is need for apartments here,” said Eric Brown, president and CEO of the Salina Area Chamber of Commerce. “There hasn’t been a market rate apartment complex built in Salina in more than two decades,” he said. “There’s been work toward addressing the housing shortage for several years, but inventory doesn’t just open up in the market overnight.”

Two cases in point are the market-rate Norton Building apartments off East Iron Avenue and the Lee Lofts — a combination of market rate and income qualified apartments — at Santa Fe Avenue and Elm Street. “They’re all leased up,” Brown said. “We know there is pent up demand for quality housing. There is a hierarchy of needs; food, water and shelter.”

Realtors and landlords won’t argue there is a shortage, and neither will city leaders, who are working on updating a housing plan. Meanwhile, a shortage persists.

“1Vision has people couch surfing,” said Mitch Robinson, executive director of the Salina Community Economic Development Organization. “That’s obviously not a long-term solution,” he said. “A lot of apartments built now are either senior oriented or low income.”

Those who deal in real estate are dialed into the issue as well, said Amber Renfro, a Realtor with Coldwell Banker APW, 631 E. Crawford. “Workforce housing has been at the forefront of our discussion for the last several years,” said Renfro, who has been in the business 21 years in Salina. “This is something that we’ve always stayed close to, to ensure that our businesses have affordable housing for their labor that allows them to recruit the talent they need,” she said. “One of my roles as a realtor is to work with the businesses and organizations to help showcase what Salina has to offer to their recruits and prospects.”

Despite those efforts, Renfro admits more needs to be done. “Availability of workforce housing remains a challenge,” she said. “There is no denying that we are low on housing inventory in certain price points.”

The Chamber has been neck deep in efforts to alleviate the situation. “We’ve advocated for housing development, been involved in workforce housing, been engaged with Salina Housing Authority, local landlords, developers, private foundations, and all the partnerships that make housing happen in a community,” Brown said. “We’re shining a light on the opportunities that exist in Salina, and needs that could be addressed by housing developers.”

The Chamber has also assisted in making connections, he said, and amassed data points and research information. With up to 850 jobs coming available soon from three companies — 1Vision, Schwan’s and Great Plains Manufacturing — and more that are in quiet discussions behind the scenes, housing voids are immense. “What we need is a large-scale building project, and right now it’s just not being done,” Brown concluded.

Robinson said, “It’s not just here in Salina. It’s pretty much across America. What we don’t have is enough builders. We’re not having enough homes built for 200 thousand dollars or less.”

Much work has been done by all of the Salina economic development partners — the Chamber, EDO, Salina Airport Authority, city, county, and others — eager to make this community an attractive place to expand or relocate a business. “I’ve had conversations with manufacturers such as Salina Vortex, El Dorado National, Coperion K-Tron, the education system, hospital and medical community, and everyone trying to recruit high wage and high-end demand positions to Salina,” Brown said. “To find ourselves in need of housing, hurts our ability to grow the local economy.”

(Continued on Pg 5)
Workforce, or market rate housing, refers to places to live where the rent is not being subsidized, said Lauren Driscoll, the City of Salina’s director of Community & Development Services.

It’s likely that 1Vision workers might find some apartment complexes in Salina attractive, she said, “but they might experience challenges related to income qualification.” Anybody making 50 percent or less of median income is considered low income, Driscoll added, while those making 50 to 80 percent of the median is at moderate income. Sponder agrees his employees make too much to meet low-income requirements.

“We’ve had some housing challenges, specifically workforce housing — some call it affordable housing. We have different gaps in the housing ladder of the market,” Driscoll said. “I wouldn’t say the city has ignored pushing regular housing; more like standing back and waiting to see what the markets would do, and trying to understand the role the city needs to play.”

The City of Salina is working to freshen up its Live Salina strategic housing plan, she said, and finding out what peer cities are using, such as Manhattan, Junction City, or even Des Moines, IA. “We’re updating to get the most current data possible to better understand the picture,” Driscoll said. “We have been approached by developers of all kinds with interest in market-rate housing. One reason these guys are coming to town is they are needing a tax break.” They seek abatements from property taxes — 10 to 100 percent — for up to 10 years, production inventory taxes, sales taxes for materials, she said, and breaks on building permits. “Each time you do something like this, you have to look at how they’re being done,” Driscoll said. “The city already has incentives; local, state and the chamber and they all come with disclaimers. Also, what role do we want to play in that? How much do we want to entice them?” There are programs available, but many target seniors or low income, Robinson said. “Right now, there is not really a workforce type of assistance program, but there might be something the state or city of Salina can look at,” he said. “There are existing tools in place. We’ve got more tools for homes, but not for apartment buildings. We need both right now.”

Big pictures must be considered. “You’ve got to think of the long-term effects of something like that, how it affects taxpayers as a whole,” Driscoll said. “When you’re incentivizing housing, what is best, and how does that incentive affect the community?”

Some caution is important, said Brian Richardson, entrepreneur and local developer, referring to overdevelopment in Junction City when the Big Red One returned to nearby Fort Riley a few years back. It left some housing empty. “You certainly don’t want to get into a situation like that,” he said. “When a builder is putting in 100 or 150 units, that takes a lot of communication with the city, county and chamber.”

As of January 20, Richardson said he had three apartments for rent, ranging from $595 to $1,000 a month, but there will be 15 more apartments open, within the next 45 to 60 days in the Lowell School project at 1009 Highland.

He is aware of the opportunities in Salina, with talk of up to 1,200 new jobs coming in. “Going forward, there’s a problem, even if there are only 600 new jobs,” Richardson said, referring to housing. “It’s awesome. What’s happening in Salina is not happening in many places in the country. It’s good stuff,” he said. “I’m excited to be a landlord in the community and to be a citizen of Salina for these reasons. I have a daughter who has moved home from Kansas City, MO., and a lot of that is because of what’s happening in the community.”

It’s hoped developers will “seize the opportunity without government assistance,” Driscoll said. “In the last six months, we have seen an increased number of inquiries about incentives or property tax abatements by developers looking to do market rate or ‘regular’ housing. These inquiries have escalated the issues, and conversations about the city’s role are happening.”

“As a community, we’ve always done our best to support projects with quality wage level positions,” Brown said. “We’ve done that, and now it’s time to give workers and job seekers a place to live in order to support our employers in the growth of this community.”

Leaders acknowledge it’s not always easy to fill voids, Richardson said, but he and others are up for the task. “Although it’s a challenge,” he said, “it’s good to have it on our plate.”

NOTE: The Salina City Commission discussed the Live Salina Plan update at the Feb. 1 study session.
Ag related companies from around the United States will exhibit their products and services during the 56th annual Mid America Farm Expo March 23rd to 25th. More than 225 exhibits will be on display showing the latest in farm technology, machinery, equipment, and supplies. The event is headquartered at Tony’s Pizza Events Center and Saline County Livestock and Expo Center.

Over the last 50 years the Mid America Farm Expo has grown exponentially. Attracting between thousands of people over three days, the Expo is now one of the largest spring farms shows in the Midwest. The Expo is headquartered in TPEC, with additional displays in Agricultural Hall and Exhibition Barn at the Saline County Livestock & Expo Center. In addition, outside exhibits are located in front of Ag Hall and on the TPEC west parking lot.

Special features of the Expo, in addition to the variety of farm equipment displays, will include seminars on the current state of the Ag Economy, Risk Management, Precision Ag and Ag Data and Market Outlook. This year, a very special guest speaker will be addressing the crowd. Matt Bennett of AgMarket.net! Matt is a farmer and former grain elevator owner, Channel Seed’s grain marketing consultant and holds a Series 3 brokerage license and is a founding partner of AgMarket.Net, Farm Division of JSA. Matt brings the producer perspective to the table, enriched with his extensive grain marketing background. He specializes in formulating risk-management strategies for corn, soybean farmers and livestock producers. Matt’s analysis and commentary on the grain markets appears on various TV and radio stations across the Midwest, including “Market to Market”, “AgDay”, “U.S. Farm Report” and “This Week in Agribusiness”.

Sponsored by American AgCredit, he will present two seminars on Wednesday, March 24th entitled “Keeping your Discipline in Rallying Markets” and “Marketing 101”. Both will be in the 4H Building on Wednesday, March 24th at 10am and 1:30 p.m., respectively.

The Mid America Farm Expo is also happy to announce that the Kansas Department of Agriculture Secretary, Mike Beam, will be presenting an update to attendees regarding the state department’s efforts and priorities in 2021. The session is scheduled for Tuesday, March 23rd at 1:30pm. In addition, David Schemm, Kansas Ag Policy Advisor for U.S. Senator Roger Marshall will be providing a federal policy and legislative update on Tuesday, March 23rd at 10am in the 4H Building.

If your business would like to have a booth space at the 56th Annual Mid America Farm Expo, contact LaCrista Brightbill at the Chamber! There is no charge for admission or parking at the Mid America Farm Expo. Hours are 9am-5pm March 23 & 24, and 9am-4pm March 25. We hope to see you there!

**GET NOTICED - SACC Website Advertising Opportunities**

The Salina Area Chamber of Commerce website, [www.SalinaKansas.org](http://www.SalinaKansas.org), offers numerous marketing opportunities designed to help members maximize their advertising power. From enhanced business listings to home page leaderboards, we offer packages at all price points.

Did you know that members who advertise with SalinaKansas.org banner ads have been shown to have at least double the number of referrals to their website? Referrals drive traffic to your business listing, social media pages, and website.

If you are interested in marketing your business with the Salina Area Chamber of Commerce, please contact Ashley or Tiffany by phone (785) 827-9301 or e-mail afinan@salinakansas.org or tbenien@salinakansas.org
RIBBON CUTTING

*Apron Strings*, celebrated the opening of their new store in downtown Salina at 143 S. Santa Fe with a Chamber ribbon cutting. Stop in and see the wonderful array of kitchen wares and specialty items. Congratulations to owner Anne Dowell and her team!

CHAMBER BUSINESS 365

**Chamber Re-launches Blog**

The Salina Area Chamber of Commerce has launched a new blog! The *Chamber Business 365* blog will feature positive news and information about Salina.

The goal of the blog is to reach a larger audience. The Chamber will continue to provide good news and content about Salina in traditional formats such as the Salina Connection Newsletter, Salina Chamber and Visit Salina social media pages, member emails and other publications. However, the new blog platform allows better exposure via Google, so that information about Salina can be shared with target audiences that the Chamber doesn’t already have contact with.

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE**

[www.salinakansasasyp.com](http://www.salinakansasasyp.com)

To become a 2021 member or sponsor and join us for all the fun in 2021!!

Are you an energetic, passionate young leader who loves the community and wants to be more involved? The SAYP Steering Committee is looking to fill the following roles:

- Business Connections Co-Chair
- Marketing Chair & Co-Chair
- Membership Co-Chair

**WE WOULD LOVE FOR YOU TO JOIN US!**

Contact LaCrista at lbrightbill@salinakansas.org for more information!

**CHECK OUT THIS BLOG AT**

[https://www.salinakansas.org/salinabusiness365blog](https://www.salinakansas.org/salinabusiness365blog)

Don’t Forget to order your ‘ticket’ for the **Chamber Annual Meeting**!

The keynote will feature a special message about the events and aftermath of 9/11, from President Myers’ unique perspective!

www.SalinaKansas.org
1) Can you please give us a three-sentence summary of your personal background?
I was born in Salina. My wife and I have been married over 20 years. We started Advantage Window Cleaning to spend more time together as a family.

2) What is it about your business that is unique or special? What separates you from your competitors?
We offer a safer alternative to pressure washing along with a network of hundreds of companies around the world. We are the only SoftWash Systems certified exterior cleaning company in the area. This simply means we are dedicated to our continued education for our customers benefit. In general, how is demand for your product or service? Everyone either lives in or works in a building we can clean. Since we clean roofs (asphalt, TPO, cedar), siding, EIFS, and decks, and much more... very high demand. Many people don’t realize the dark stuff (Gloeocapsa magma, mold, mildew) growing on these surfaces are very damaging if left untreated correctly.

3) How long has your firm been in business and why are you operating in the Salina region?
We serviced our first customer in Dec 2001, she and her husband have remained clients to this day. Salina at the time didn’t have a business that offered residential window cleaning as a main focus, so we gave it a shot. Well, a big ‘Thank You!’ to Salina for 20 years of support!

See the entire interview, and others, posted at: https://www.salinakansas.org/take-5.html
Larry Britegam, regional president of AMERICAN STATE BANK, has been appointed to the Kansas Sports Hall of Fame board of directors by Gov. Laura Kelly. Britegam has been a leader in sports in the Salina area for many years, including 30 years as a youth baseball coach. He served as a tri-chair of the Chamber’s basketball task force throughout our years of hosting the NJCAA National Women’s Basketball Tournament, created the Youth Baseball Fund at Greater Salina Community Foundation, and is involved in Salina Baseball Enterprises, an initiative to upgrade Salina’s baseball and softball facilities. Congratulations and thank you Larry!

Mayra Martinez is the new executive chef at HILTON GARDEN INN AND CONVENTION CENTER, 3320 S. Ninth. Mayra has been their sous chef the past two years, and they are very excited to promote her to the executive chef position. She is a Salina native. In addition to her professional experience, Mayra studied culinary at the Art School of Austin, TX and believes that the flavor of food fuels the entire experience. Please join us in extending a heartfelt welcome to Mayra! Enjoy her work at the Garden Grille at the hotel, or call to plan your next event for the convention center.

Clark Renfro, president of EXCHANGE BANK SALINA, 1720 S. Ohio, announces that Carolyn Peterson has joined their bank family as a Customer Service Representative. Carolyn brings with her years of experience in Salina’s banking world. Stop in to see Carolyn, Clark and the Exchange Bank staff who are all committed to the Salina community.

Jane Gates, executive director of the STIEFEL THEATRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, 151 S. Santa Fe, has announced that live concerts are returning to Salina’s beautiful venue. Upcoming concerts include: JOSH TURNER, October 8; THE OAKRIDGE BOYS, November 5; STYX, November 19; CELTIC WOMAN, April 20, 2022. Both the Styx and Celtic Woman concerts are re-schedules, and tickets previously purchased will automatically transfer. The Stiefel box offices are open Mon-Fri, 12 Noon-4pm. Stop by in person to the walk-up box office by the main entrance on Santa Fe, or call (785) 827-1998.

SUNFLOWER BANK is currently offering its latest ABC Program, a “Pay for ‘A’s” drawing for students. The ABC Program provides year-round opportunities for local communities to earn money for schools and for students to be rewarded for their scholastic achievements. Since 2001, Sunflower Bank has given away over $1.4 million through the ABC Program. Through March 31, 2021, all bank branch locations will accept K-12 students’ report cards for the “Pay for ‘A’s” drawing. All students are invited to bring their report cards to their local branch for a chance to earn up to $100 for their A’s. Five report card winners per branch will be chosen on April 1, 2021. This drawing is open to the general public, no purchase is required for entry. As an added benefit, schools that participate in the ABC Program will receive a matching donation if one of their student’s report cards is chosen. 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. Schools can use the funds as they choose for any programs or supplies. Once a year, Sunflower Bank branch associates register schools to participate in the ABC Program’s next donation cycle.

CENTRAL KANSAS MENTAL HEALTH CENTER (CKMHC) set a goal of raising $10,000 by the end of 2020 to address increased mental health needs and training and partnered with FIRST BANK KANSAS to match those donations. By December 31, 2020, the success of the drive brought in donations from community members in the amount of $9,321. With numbers so close to goal, First Bank Kansas moved forward with a $10,000 matching donation to support mental health awareness. CKMHC is grateful to have such a wonderful partnership with First Bank Kansas. Donations will be used to make services available, accessible, and affordable for anyone seeking help. They will also be used toward scholarships for public education trainings such as Mental Health First Aid and Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training. For more information, call (785) 823-6322 or visit www.facebook.com/CKMHC. Donation can be made at www.ckmhc.org. Thank you CKMHC and First Bank Kansas!

SALINA USD 305 has announced two new principals. Scott Chrisman will become the Lakewood Middle School principal. His 18 years of experience include 5 years as assistant principal at Salina High School South; K-12 assistant principal for Southeast of Saline; Social Studies teacher at South Middle School, Colby Middle School and coach for golf, basketball, baseball, softball and track. Brandon Cheeks will be the new principal for Sunset Elementary. His 16 years of experience include assistant principal at South Middle School, school administrator in Newton, 13 years teaching social studies at Lakewood Middle School, and coaching basketball, track and cross-country. Congratulations!
THANK YOU to these Chamber members who continue to support our programs through their membership renewal.

- 1 Vision Aviation
- 3J's Steam Cleaning
- A & A Services
- Access Storage, Inc.
- Ace Hardware Home Center
- Acoustic Sounds Inc.
- Ad Astra Books and Coffee House
- Advance Auto Parts
- Advantage Softwash
- Advantage Trust Company
- AFK Properties, LLC
- Ahlers Family Dentistry
- Aldi
- Alliance Insurance Group
- American AgCredit
- American Electric Company
- American Family Insurance - Jeff Wells
- American Red Cross
- American State Bank
- Ameriprise Financial - Dan Saulnier
- Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar
- The Arnold Group
- Arrow Printing Company
- Ashby House
- Ashley Furniture Homestore
- Assurance Partners, LLC
- Atop Realty LLC
- B & K Prescription Shop
- Monica M. Bachamp, D.O., FACOOG
- Bamford Fire Sprinkler Co., Inc.
- BANK VI
- Bayard's Cafe
- BC's Salina Club Liquor
- R. Michael Beatty
- Bennington State Bank/Salina
- Benson Accounting, CPA, PA
- Bergkamp Inc.
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Salina
- Blackwell and Struble, LLC.
- Blondell's Salon Spa & Boutique
- Blue Beacon
- Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Kansas
- Blue Sky Brewery & Eats
- Bluestem PACE
- Boy Scouts of America, Coronado Area Council
- Keith Bremerman
- Brooks Retail Liquor Store
- The Buckle
- Building Performance Company
- Barton Bycroft, DMD
- Cabinet Connection
- Callabresi Heating & Cooling, Inc.
- Cancer Center of Kansas
- Candlewood Suites
- Carlson-Geisendorf Funeral Home
- Carroll's Properties
- Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas
- Cave Divers South Liquor Store
- Central Kansas Extension District #3
- Central Kansas Mental Health Center
- Central Leasing Systems, Inc.
- Central National Bank
- Central Plains Business Forms, Inc.
- Central Power Systems & Services
- Central States Enterprises
- Century Business Systems, Inc.
- Chapel Ridge Apartments
- Cheney Door Salina
- Child Advocacy & Parenting Services
- Chill's Grill & Bar
- Chiropractic Wellness Center
- Christ Episcopal Cathedral
- Christ the King Lutheran Church
- Chuck Henry Sales, Inc.
- The City
- City of Salina
- City Plumbing Company, Inc.
- Citywide Storage
- Clark, Mize & Linville, Chtd.
- The Cleaning Lady
- Club Carwash - Broadway
- Club Carwash - Marketplace
- Coldwell Banker Antrim-Piper, Wenger Realtors - Chris Rost
- Communities in Schools of Mid-America
- Complete Floor Covering Inc.
- ComPro Realty
- Conklin Cars Salina
- Consolidated Printing & Stationery
- Construction Rental, Inc.
- Coperion K-Tron Salina
- Cozy Inn
- Crossroads Collision, Inc.
- Crown Distributors, LLC.
- D S & O Electric Cooperative
- Daimaru Steak House
- Dairy Queen No. 1
- Dauer Implement Company Inc
- Davis & Associates
- Days Inn
- Dental Care of Salina
- Design Central, LLC
- Diamond Transfer
- Daniel K. Diedrich, Attorney at Law
- Dignity Care Home
- Dillon Stores Division #95
- Domestic Violence Association of Central Kansas
- Doug Bradley Trucking, Inc.
- DRCL Electric, Inc.
MEMBERSHIP NEWS

- Drs. Driver & Clark, Optometrist, PA
- Drs. Cooper, Banninger & Ebert
- Dynamold Corporation
- E Bar Z Stables
- Eagle Communications
- Eagle Technologies
- Eaglecrest Retirement Community
- Eccentricity Too
- Edward Jones - Andrea Pedigo
- Edward Jones - Don Simoneau
- Eisenhower Presidential Library & Museum
- Ellsworth County Independent - Reporter
- Evergy
- Exline, Inc.
- Express Employment Professionals
- EyeCare Associates of Salina, L.L.C.
- Farm Bureau Financial Services - Mike Losik
- Farmers & Ranchers Livestock Commission
- Ferco Rental, Inc.
- FILESAFE
- Fili Creative
- First Bank Kansas
- First United Methodist Church
- Five Guys Burgers & Fries
- The Flower Nook
- Foley Equipment Company
- Dave Freeland, CPA
- Frisbie Construction
- Genesis Health Club
- Ginder Hydraulic, L.C.
- Glass Services
- Glassman Corporation
- The Golf Shop
- Goodwill Retail
- Grain Belt Supply Company
- Graves Farms
- Great Plains Federal Credit Union
- Great Plains Manufacturing Co.
- Greater Salina Community Foundation
- GreatLife Golf & Fitness
- Ken Guest
- John Gunn
- Hair Loft Salon
- Hajoca Corporation
- Hampton & Royce
- Harbin Construction, LLC
- Hardman Company, L.L.C.
- Hassman Termite & Pest Control, Inc.
- HCB Management Services
- Hearing Life
- Heartland Dermatology Center, PA
- Helm Home Store
- Hickory Hut Barbeque
- Highland Meadows Hamlet
- Hoff’s Machine & Welding, Inc.
- Holm Buick GMC
- Home Builders Association of Salina, Inc.
- Hometown Disposal Inc.
- Hong Kong Buffet
- HouseMaster Home Inspection
- HUB International
- Hutton Corporation
- IBT
- Imperial Garden Express
- ISG Technology
- Isis Temple
- Jensen Properties L.L.C.
- Jerry Diehl Construction
- Jim’s Formal Wear, LLC
- Jim Johnson, OD, P.A.
- Steven Johnson, State Representative
- Johnstown Towers Apartments
- Jones Gillam Renz Architects
- Joyce Volk Renz Architects
- JRI Management
- Ka-Comm Inc.
- KanEquip
- Kansas Bankers Technologies, LLC
- Kansas Beach Hospitality & Events
- Kansas Coring & Cutting
- Kansas Gas Service
- Kansas Secured Title
- Kansas State Polytechnic
- Kansas Wesleyan University
- Kape Roofing & Exteriors KRE Inc.
- KCoE Isom, LLP
- Wally Kearns
- Keating & Associates
- Kejr, Inc.
- Kennedy Berkley Yarnevich & Williamson, Chtd.
- Key Rexall Pharmacy
- Koers-Davis Consulting Service, Inc.
- Krissy Blochlinger & Associates - Allstate Agency
- KRNV Radio
- KU School of Medicine - Salina
- KVSV Radio
- KWCH
- L & S Building Contractors, Inc.
- Lancaster Construction, Inc.
- Land Title Services, Inc.
- Linda M. Lawrence, MD
- Lee Haworth Construction Co., Inc.
- Little Caesars Pizza
- Lockton Companies
- Long & Associates Public Accountants, Inc.
- Long McArthur, Inc.
- Longshot Enterprises, L.L.C.
- Luminous Neon, Art & Sign Systems, Inc.
- Lundgren Dental Associates
- Mahaska
- John C. Marietta, D.D.S.
- The Market Shop
- Marshall Motor Co., Inc.
David Martin, Independent Marketing Consultant
Martinelli's Little Italy
Matrix Electronic Measuring, Inc.
McDonald's of Salina, Inc. – Planet
McDonald's of Salina, Inc. – Broadway
McDonald's of Salina, Inc. – Crawford
McKenna Law Office, P.A.
MDF Industries
Mead Lumber of Salina
Meridian Media, LLC
MHC Kenworth
Mid America Productions
Mid-Kansas Title Co., Inc.
Midway Wholesale
Midwest Single Source, Inc.
Millwood Realty
Miracle Ear
Mokas Coffee, Inc.
Money Automotive Center
Morrison Ventures
The Mortgage Company
Morton Buildings, Inc.
Mowery Clinic, L.L.C.
My Lawn! Turf & Tree
Neuschafer & Associates, Inc.- American Family Insurance
Neustrom & Associates, PA
New Horizons Dental Care, PA
Nex-Tech
North Central KS Coordinated Transit Council, Inc.
Norton, Wasserman, Jones & Kelly, L.L.C, Attorneys
Oakdale Plaza Apartments
Oard's Auto & Truck Repairs
OCCK, Inc.
Occupational Performance Corporation
Old Chicago Pizza and Taproom
On The Pot
Orscheln Farm & Home L.L.C.
Papa Murphy's
Paramount Bar
Pestinger Distributing
Pestinger Heating & Air Conditioning
Petite's Flowers, L.L.C.
Phil's Karts
The Phone Connection Voice Networks
Pickel & Bruckner, LLC
PKM Steel Service, Inc.
Ponton Construction, Inc.
Precision Electrical Contractors L.L.C.
Precision Machine & Welding, Inc.
Premier Food Service
The Pride Group/Pride Golf Cars
Producers XL
Professional Hearing Center
Pronto Print
Punchin’ Out Parkinson’s Organization
PURE Workplace Solutions| BA Designs
Quality Inn & Suites
R & J Salina Tax Service Inc.
RAMACO, Inc.
Mike Ramage
Real Estate Appraisal Services Inc.
Rebecca Jane's
The Renaissance Cafe
REPCO
ResCare KS Central
Riddle's Jewelry
Riffel Development Company Inc.
Archie Riggs
Ritter Tile
Rolling Hills Zoo
Rosewood Services, Inc.
Charles Roth
Ryan Mortuary
Ryan Roofing, Inc.
Sacred Heart Cathedral
Sacred Heart Jr/Sr High School
Salina Adult Education Center
Salina Area Technical College
Salina Art Center & Cinema
Salina Arts & Humanities
Salina Blueprint & Micrographic Systems, Inc.
Salina Building Company, Inc.
Salina Child Care Association
Salina Community Theatre, Inc.
Salina Country Club
Salina Dental Arts
Salina Dental Associates, PA
Salina Downtown, Inc.
Salina Education Foundation
Salina Emergency Aid/Food Bank
Salina Family Healthcare Center
Salina Family Vision Care
Salina Family YMCA
Salina Foot Clinic, P.A.
Salina Housing Authority
Salina Human Resource Management Association
Salina Journal
Salina Massage Therapy
Salina Media Connection
Salina Medical Esthetics
Salina Mini Storage
Salina Ortho - Bradley Daily, MD
Salina Ortho - Byron Grauerholz, MD
Salina Ortho - Michael Johnson, MD
Salina Ortho - Todd Herrenbruck, MD
Salina Planing Mill, Inc.
Salina Presbyterian Manor
Salina Public Library
Salina Regional Health Center
Salina Regional Health Foundation
Salina Rescue Mission, Inc.
Salina Scale Sales & Service Inc.
Salina Steel Supply, Inc.
Salina Supply Company
MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Join us for…

Berkley Family Recreation Area Dedication
APRIL 24 - 11AM
SOUTH OF
DEAN EVANS STADIUM

To honor the Berkley Family for their contribution to the baseball and softball projects, the East Crawford Recreation Area (ECRA) will be named the Berkley Family Recreation Area.

www.SalinaKansas.org 13
It’s Salina, Year Two for EquiFest of Kansas!

by Kansas Horse Council Executive Director, Justine Staten

Kansas Horse Council presents the 24th Annual EquiFest of Kansas, one of the largest equine expos in the Midwest filled with shopping, food, music, clinics, workshops, and a whole lot of fun!

In two operating arenas, (Tony’s Pizza Events Center Arena & Saline County Expo Center Ag Hall Arena) you can watch over 100 horses performing throughout the three days, displaying a variety of breeds, disciplines, special demonstrations, and competitions!

Featured in the arenas will be world renowned clinicians, Chris Cox for General Horsemanship, Robin Groves for Competitive Driving & Jackie Jatzlau for Barrel Racing, plus Katelyn Kok presenting Dressage for the Non Dressage Horse and Amanda Held for Equine Communications.

Competitions are in full swing this year with a Draft Horse Feed Team Race, the annual Blacksmithing Competition for Farriers, a Driving Derby, and a Barrel Race. On Friday and Saturday nights don’t miss the TravAlum-Liberty, Inc., authentic Ranch Rodeo with cowboys, cowgirls and their skilled mounts competing in fast and woolly, action-packed, real working events including wild cow milking and trailer loading!

Stroll through the Stall Barn to check out horses up close. Learn about different breeds. You will find everything from pony to draft and all sizes in between. See carts used for driving horses. Meet the Fort Riley Commanding General’s Mounted Color Guards near their historic encampment. Check out additional vendor displays.

‘Shop till you Drop’ with wall-to-wall shopping in the 4H Building at Saline County Expo plus the TPEC Concourse and Great Plains Manufacturing Convention Hall. All offer something special you can’t live without!

Food awaits sampling! You’ll find authentic Kettle Corn (inside 4H Building) and Candied Nuts (in TPEC Concourse). Located between Ag Hall and the 4H/ Ponderosa building at the Saline County Expo Center will be several food trucks with kicked up American cafe’ food, Jamaican twist, home cookin’, and gourmet burgers. Dine anywhere with your food!

Settle in at the Ponderosa! The 4H Stage offers cowboy poetry, music, and live audience interaction if you want to be on TV! Better Horses Network will be doing live interviews for their TV show and Speaking of Horses will host an audience participation Equine Trivia game live daily - you might become a celebrity.

Best of America by Horseback, one of the longest running shows on RFD TV & The Cowboy Channel will also be on site, sharing stories and videos of some of their favorite places to ride.

Special demonstrations include the Fort Riley Color Guards, mule jumping, a young ranch hand roman riding while driving a pair of draft horses, plus the patriotic American Freedom Drill Team Riders.

Workshops will provide entertainment and education covering topics such as: Fair Exchange- equine emotional empathy, driving dressage notes, hoof care, a program for positive performance in training, equine assisted therapy facilitation, Solo Journey- a biography covering 500 miles on horseback, Kansas State Parks Horse Trails & Volunteer Opportunities, and the 2nd Annual Legendary Kansas Horsemen-a panel of successful equine hall of famers who will share stories of their horse careers.

Parents can bring kids for fun in the Kids Corral at the 4H building, featuring unique horse themed games & activities hosted by the Colby Community College Equestrian Team. Plus, Kansas Rodeo Royalty will be around for pictures and autographs.

There’s a lot to see and do at EquiFest of Kansas in Salina! It takes volunteers to make this happen. If you might be interested in volunteering let us know! We’ve always got something for you to help with! Interested in participating as a clinic or demo rider? We have a special Barrel clinic on Thursday March 4th with a few spots left and Chris Cox has some opportunities during EquiFest too.

To find out more, contact the Kansas Horse Council Office by phone at (785) 776-0662, by email- director@kansashorsecouncil.com or by a message through our website: www.kansashorsecouncil.com. If you’d rather DM through Facebook Messenger, that works too-search “EquiFest of Kansas brought to you by Kansas Horse Council”.

For updates and schedule, go to www.equiifestofks.com. Wristband Tickets on sale at the Tony’s Pizza Events Center Box Office during the event. Prices are $20/day or $50 for all 3 days, and kids 12 & under are free.
**Hoops are Happening!**

Pivoting has been vital to the KSHSAA 4A State Basketball Tournament, but thanks to a lot of hard work by KSHSAA, Tony’s Pizza Events Center and The Salina Basketball Task Force, hoops are happening! Changes due to Covid-19 include a reduction in teams and attendees. Qualifying teams have been reduced to 4 girls’ teams and 4 boys’ teams. Spectators will be limited and required to follow social distancing guidelines and wear masks throughout the tournament at Tony’s Pizza Events Center.

“This year, the goal is, and has been from the beginning of the season, to play the State Championship! Everyone that’s involved is thankful that we’re able to provide this opportunity. While it’s different, it’s happening, and the fact that we will play has been the silver lining for 2021!”, said Tiffany Benien, Visit Salina.

**4A State Boys’ and Girls’ State Championship Tournaments**
Tony’s Pizza Events Center
March 11-13, 2021
For Ticket information see: http://www.tonyspizzaeventscenter.com/

**Game Times**
- Thursday, March 12 (boys) 3PM, 7PM
- Friday, March 13 (girls) 3PM, 7PM
- Saturday, March 14 (champs) 2PM (boys), 6PM (girls)

The people have spoken! The 2020 SculptureTour Salina People’s Choice Award was presented to “For the Love of Steel”, a metal sculpture by the late Sunny Corbett. The City of Salina will purchase the piece and keep it on display as part of their permanent art collection. In addition, this sculpture won the first ever Kids’ Choice Award, determined by votes from young people 18 years old and younger, with a $500 cash award. The People’s Choice Award of Merit – garnering the 2nd highest number of votes – went to “Out of Africa” by Dale Lewis, MN, with a $1,000 cash award.

Remember, the current STS exhibition will remain in place through the end of March. Get out and get those selfies taken with your favorites sculptures before they go! The 2021 sculptures have been selected, and will be unveiled on Saturday, May 1, 2021. See you there!

#sculpturetoursalina #visitsalina
The Salina Area Youth Sportsmanship Initiative (SAYS!) is preparing for the 2021 baseball and softball seasons. SAYS! is a local non-profit organization designed to promote sportsmanship and provide coaching resources and player opportunities in the Salina community. This year, SAYS! has tournaments, team events, coaches’ meetings, awards, and other activities planned to grow enjoyment, foster leadership, and provide worthwhile enrichment to sport in Salina.

SAYS! Executive Director, Daryl Hoelting, is excited about the 2021 baseball and softball seasons, “During 2020 just getting to play was a thrill. In addition, the adaptability required of everyone involved made for a big challenge. During this time of uncertainty, cooperation and good sportsmanship are key components of successful teams. Sports are more about character and mental well-being than wins and losses.”

As a former player and coach, Daryl’s goal is to boost good sportsmanship and develop positive life-long skills at all levels. “Good sportsmanship must be taught at every practice AND must be practiced at every game. Good sportsmanship not only creates a love for the game but also generates fun.” With a full season ahead, Daryl is looking forward to implementing a strong SAYS! program.

Know a Team that wants to Play in a Fun Tournament that Promotes Sportsmanship?

SAYS! will host 3, 1-day softball and baseball tournaments this year to generate revenue to help cover coaching certifications and sportsmanship awards. The tournaments will also bring several out-of-town teams to experience Salina and provide a positive impact on the local economy.

Get Your Team Entered Today!

SAYS!
Youth Baseball and Softball Tournaments - Salina
Call Daryl Hoelting, (785) 577-2907

- April 17, 2021 – Youth Kickoff Baseball and Softball Tournaments
  Ages 8U to 14U – Bill Burke Park
  – entry deadline April 9, 2021

- May 1, 2021 – SAYS! Baseball Tournaments
  Ages 12U, 13U & 14U – Bill Burke Park & Berkley Family Rec. Area
  – entry deadline April 23, 2021

- June 19, 2021 – Good Sport Baseball & Softball Tournaments
  Ages 8U to 14U – Bill Burke Park
  – entry deadline June 11, 2021
River Festival - Fun Ahead
by Kay Quinn, SAH

Festival fans across the community are excited to help Salina Arts & Humanities plan for a joyful River Festival this year, to be held Thursday through Sunday, Sept 2-5. The shift of the normal, multiday event to Labor Day weekend has been made to:

• promote public health and safety.
• be a responsible partner to all those involved.
• ensure smooth operations on-grounds.
• help Salina and the region celebrate the River Festival’s 45th anniversary year.

SAH and River Festival Executive Director Brad Anderson says staff and the Festival’s 20-plus committees will work with city and county officials to prepare a detailed safety plan to make each component of the Festival as safe and enjoyable as possible. “Holding a well-organized, responsible event three months later will allow staff, volunteers and guests time to plan for and experience the Festival’s 45th anniversary with the excellence and energy it has demonstrated for years.”

The River Festival draws about 60,000 visitors to Salina each year, generating $3.5 million and attracting 250+ artists, performers, and vendors from 35 states. For details, visit the newly redesigned SHRF website at riverfestival.com.