

# CHAMBER CONNECTION

A Publication of Salina Area Chamber of Commerce

February 2023 Volume 62, Number 12

26<sup>th</sup> Annual



presented by



Kansas' Premier

## All-Breed Horse Fair

March 16-19, 2023

Salina, KS

# & Exposition

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

"Acquitt on the Hard Grass" all rights reserved by Kathryn Leitner



### AT A GLANCE Mark your Calendar!

Business After Hours . . . . . February 2  
Saline Downtown, Inc.  
134 S. Santa Fe, Ste 120 - 5-7pm

Business After Hours . . . . . February 16  
Brown's Shoe Fit  
2150 Planet Ave. - 5-7pm

Salina At The Statehouse . . . . . March 8

Member Orientation . . . . . March 8  
Visit Salina Annex  
120 W. Ash - 12-1pm

Mid America Farm Expo . . March 22-24  
Salina CO Expo Center &  
Tony's Pizza Event Center  
Kenwood Park

*Details inside!*

**KANSAS EQUIFEST**  
**MARCH 16-19** See pg 03





# Salina

Area Chamber of Commerce

## OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

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

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**CHAIR** Dr. Alysia Starkey  
K-State Salina

**VICE CHAIR** Andrew Manley  
First Bank Kansas

**CHAIR ELECT** Jason Gillig  
Hutton

**TREASURER** Loren Young  
Pinion

**PAST CHAIR** Travis Young  
Salina Vortex

### INTERIM

**PRESIDENT/CEO** Renee Duxler  
Salina Area Chamber of Commerce

Melissa Anderson  
Kansas Wesleyan University

Sam Browning  
Helio Next Holdings, Inc.

Cheryl Campbell  
Sunflower Bank

Mindi Davidson  
First Bank Kansas

Dr. Patrick Lucaci  
Oral Facial & Implant Surgery Salina

Lori Perez  
Sanity Boutique

Susan Young  
Bennington State Bank



Renee Duxler

## From the Interim President/CEO

February seems like it should be a sleepy month. Short days, cold temperatures, and our bodies and pocketbooks should be recovering from all of the gluttony of the holidays. Sleepy doesn't seem to be in Salina's vernacular, however, and our town continues to buzz with energy and commerce. I know here at the Chamber, this winter season seems especially busy.

February brings preparations for EquiFest, now in its fourth year of choosing Salina for this annual March event. The Kansas Horse Council continues to be thrilled with the success it's seen here, and Visit Salina works diligently—along with our partners at Tony's Pizza Event Center and the Saline County Livestock & Expo Center—to coordinate every year for a prosperous event. It is estimated that vendors and guests of EquiFest make a \$1 million economic impact on our community that includes hotel, food, beverage, supplies, and fuel sales over the course of the week that they are here.

Along with EquiFest, plans are currently "in play" for Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA) state wrestling and basketball that we host in February and March every year, respectively. Again, Visit Salina has established this relationship to bring these events here year-over-year, and this visitor traffic is extraordinary for many of our hospitality, restaurant, and retail businesses.

February also brings a slew of entrepreneurial activities as we hold Project OPEN business training courses with our partners at Kansas State University-Salina as well. This quarter's classes are Feb. 7 and 9 from 5:30-8:30pm both evenings, and help both start-ups as well as existing business owners, work through creating a business plan. These classes are free and open to the general public; visit [www.projectopensalina.com](http://www.projectopensalina.com) to learn more.

We are also planning for the 7th year of the USD 305 Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge (YEC). In this partnership with Salina Public Schools and Network KS, we are able to support Central and South high school students with creating a business and learning how to present it. On March 1st from 9am-noon, these students compete at Salina Area Technical College for cash prizes—with 1st place going home with \$500, 2nd place receiving \$350, and 3rd place getting \$200. The first place winner of this event also moves on to compete at the state competition in Manhattan in May.

And finally, our Salina Area Young Professionals (SAYP) group held their kick-off in January and are excited to continue to engage with young talent across the community for social networking, educational programming, civic engagement, and leadership development activities. They will continue to be busy throughout the winter in scheduling a wide array of events to connect young professionals with each other. Learn more about SAYP at [www.salinakansasyp.com](http://www.salinakansasyp.com).

On top of all of this, legislative advocacy, housing and childcare discussions, and workforce recruitment and retention continue to be priorities here at the Chamber as this growth, energy, and overall pride in our community continues. It keeps us busy—but also inspired—as we work alongside all of you in these efforts.

Best,

Renee Duxler, Interim President/CEO

## HERE'S HOW TO CONTACT OUR CHAMBER STAFF

**Renee Duxler, Interim President/CEO**  
rduxler@salinakansas.org

**Sandy Cole, Accountant**  
scole@salinakansas.org

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

**Sylvia Rice, Visit Salina Director**  
srice@salinakansas.org

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

**Jo Ann McClure, Visit Salina  
Convention, Military & Ag Manager**  
jmclure@salinakansas.org

**Stephanie Gillig, Events and  
Community Initiatives Director**  
sgillig@salinakansas.org

**Ector Diaz, Marketing &  
Content Coordinator**  
ediaz@salinakansas.org

**Donna Smith, Office Assistant**  
dsmith@salinakansas.org





# Salina Back in the Saddle with 26th Annual EquiFest of Kansas

From: Kansas Horse Council, Executive Director, Justine Staten

Kansas Horse Council presents the **26th Annual EquiFest of Kansas, March 16-19**. This event - the largest equine expo in Kansas - filled with shopping, food, music, clinics, workshops, and a whole lot of fun!

In two operating arenas, (Tony's Pizza Events Center (TPEC) Arena & Saline County Expo Center Ag Hall Arena) you can watch over 100 horses performing throughout the 3.5 days, displaying a variety of breeds, disciplines, special demonstrations, and competitions!

This year our program cover artist is Kathryn Leitner, the 2021 AQHA Artist of the year and the featured image is titled, "Adrift on the Hard Grass". In the arena, Curt Pate showcases Horsemanship, Stockmanship and Working Dog demonstrations. Buster McLaury presents Groundwork, De-spooking (Obstacles) & Trailer Loading. Patrick Sullivan presents introductory level

Bridle-Less Riding, dealing with the Herd Bound Horse & Advance Liberty Riding Skills. We welcome Sally Batton with How To Ride Like a Varsity Athlete, Equicize (Aerobics in the Saddle), Biomechanics of Bending (Jump Course) and we'll also learn about Polocrosse!

Entertainment is at its with Broken Spoke Clydesdale Hitch, the Pegasus Riders, the American Freedom Drill Team & Wichita Mounted Police. Don't miss the fantastic celebrity music talent with Savanna Chestnut-a Kansas native who is making a name for herself in the country music world, Gary Pratt-Oklahoma Rancher, Singer, Songwriter & Actor, plus Caleb Martin, Singer, Songwriter and Actor, currently in the TV miniseries 1923-a prequel to Yellowstone!

Competitions are again a big part of EquiFest this year. We'll start off with the KQHA Youth Open Horse Judging Competition followed by a Draft Horse Feed Team Race, the annual blacksmithing competition for Farriers, a Driving Derby & a Breakaway Roping competition. On Friday and Saturday nights don't miss the Atwoods-Cargill 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 the displays.

'Shop till you Drop' with wall-to-wall merchandise 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 (on 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, and gourmet burgers. Dine anywhere with your food truck or concessions food!

Settle in at the Ponderosa! The 4H Stage offers music, and live audience interaction if you want to be on TV! Everything Horses & Livestock will conduct podcast interviews on stage 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 capturing some of the EquiFest activities. Come meet them and learn about some favorite places to explore.

Workshops provide entertainment and education. This year Tammy Pate joins us to offer some equestrian yoga. The Annual Legendary Kansas Horsemen's panel returns for the 4th year, featuring successful equine hall of famers who will share stories of their horse careers.

Parents can bring kids for fun in the Kids Corral or Trike Races that celebrate a Decade of Derbies at EquiFest. Plus, Kansas Rodeo Royalty will be around for pictures and autographs.

The Kansas Horse Council Foundation Silent Auction returns with some great deals! Your contribution supports equine enthusiasts pursuing a college level degree or trade certification.

There's a lot to see and do at EquiFest of KS in Salina! It takes volunteers to make this happen. If you are 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 opportunities! To find out more, go to [www.equifestofks.com](http://www.equifestofks.com) to the Get Involved tab, or contact the Kansas Horse Council Office by phone at 785-776-0662, by email- [director@kansashorsecouncil.com](mailto:director@kansashorsecouncil.com) or by a message through our website: [www.equifestofks.com](http://www.equifestofks.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.equifestofks.com](http://www.equifestofks.com). Wristband Tickets on sale at the Tony's Pizza Events Center Box Office daily during the event. Prices are \$20/day or Twilight Discount \$10 after 5pm. Kids 12 & under are always free. You can get a deal with \$50 for all 3 days. Sunday is FREE day for ALL.



Adrift on the Hard Grass, original artwork by Kathryn Leitner



# Property Tax Relief Program Accepting Applications

## From Kansas Department of Revenue

During the 2022 Legislative Session, the Legislature passed, and Governor Laura Kelly signed the COVID-19 Retail Storefront Property Tax Relief Program, which invests \$50.0 million to help small businesses recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. The program, administered by the Kansas Department of Revenue (Department), is open for application until April 15, 2023.

The COVID-19 Retail Storefront Property Tax Relief Program is funded through the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), which requires registration for a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) through the federal System for Award Management (SAM). The required UEI is issued at no cost, and registration can be made at [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov).

UEI registration ensures the accuracy of the information provided and the security of the funding used for this program. If a business is registered in SAM.gov, no additional action is needed to obtain a UEI, and an application to the program can be completed.

Business owners can learn more about the COVID-19 Retail Storefront Property Tax Relief Program, including eligibility, by visiting <https://www.ksrevenue.gov/taxnotices/notice22-04.pdf>.



An application for the relief program can be completed at <https://www.kdor.ks.gov/Apps/Misc/PropTaxAssistance/StoreFront>.

Applicants with questions about this program may contact the Department at (785) 368-8660 for assistance.

Notice 22-04, which provides an overview of the program, can be found [here](#). The Chamber encourages local businesses who may be eligible for this program to submit an application soon.

# Wage & Benefit Survey Completed



The 2022 Salina Wage and Benefit Survey is available. Wage and benefit information was submitted by 29 companies representing 2,203 hourly and 989 salary employees.

As a bonus this year, we have also added a complete SOC occupation listing of 2022 Q3 Saline County (salary) wages, pulled from the Bureau of Labor statistics

through our JobsEQ database. This hopefully paints a much broader picture of area wages for all occupations across the county. In the future we will only conduct the benefit survey now that we have access to this database.

The survey is on the Chamber website and you may access it at [www.salinakansas.org](http://www.salinakansas.org) by clicking on the Members Only tab

found on the Members drop down tab. You will need your user name and password to view the survey. If you do not have an user name and password please contact Ashely Finan at [afinan@salinakansas.org](mailto:afinan@salinakansas.org) requesting access to the Members Only Section and she will assign one to you. Thanks to all who participated; Hannebaum Grain was our winner of the \$300 in Smoky Hill Silver!

## Save the Date for Salina at the Statehouse!

We will be traveling to Topeka on March 8 with a delegation from Salina to get updates from lawmakers, as well as schedule individual meetings with Salina area representatives. Transportation will leave the Chamber at 7:30am that morning, and return by 5pm.

If you would like to participate this year, please contact Renee Duxler at [rduxler@salinakansas.org](mailto:rduxler@salinakansas.org)





# SAVE THE DATE

The 2023 Mid America Farm Expo in Salina has been set!

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday  
March 22nd, 23rd, 24th



More details including booth prices and availability coming soon!

Contact Stephanie at [sgillig@salinakansas.org](mailto:sgillig@salinakansas.org) or 785-827-9310 ext. 124 with any questions.

# SALINA AT THE STATEHOUSE

## SAVE THE DATE

### WEDNESDAY MARCH 8, 2023

SAVE THE DATE FOR **SALINA AT THE STATEHOUSE!** We will be traveling to Topeka on March 8 with a delegation from Salina to get updates from lawmakers, as well as schedule individual meetings with Salina area representatives. Transportation will leave the Chamber at 7:30am that morning and return by 5pm. If you would like to participate this year, please contact Renee Duxler at [rduxler@salinakansas.org](mailto:rduxler@salinakansas.org)

# Salina Area YP Kicks it off for 2023!

Salina Area Young Professionals hosted their 2023 Kickoff Event on Thursday, January 19th. A huge thank you to Kansas State University-Salina for allowing us to hold our event on their campus and for assistance with facilitating details. With over 60 in attendance and many new faces, our 2023 Steering Committee is looking forward to planning events this year focusing on the attraction and retention of young talent in Salina. We would also like to thank the following local businesses for donating prizes for the event: Tony's Pizza Events Center, Theatre Salina, Salina Art Center, and Stiefel Theatre.

Our Steering Committee is comprised of individuals from area businesses that volunteer their time to plan out the year's events. We would like to recognize the individuals below for their time and

dedication to the organization.

- Cara Emig**, First Bank Kansas
- Lora Kirmer**, The Garage
- Cami Dinkel**, BBBS of Salina
- Amanda Blechle**, USAF
- Julie Mindrup**, Self-Employed
- Hannah Crickman**, Salina Art Center
- Ector Diaz**, Salina Area Chamber of Commerce
- Marissa Patton**, City of Salina
- Ashley Kolb**, Farm Bureau Financial Services
- Ryin Bathon**, JAB IT PC
- Sarah Keck**, Salina Arts & Humanities
- Dr. Tiffany Snyder**, USD 305
- Stephanie Gillig**, Salina Area Chamber of Commerce

If you are interested in joining Salina Area Young Professionals, you can do so by visiting the Salina Area Chamber of Commerce website or click on the link [here](#) to register.

We would also love to hear from you to help the Salina Area Young Professional Steering Committee start planning. If you could please complete the following short survey through the QR code, we would really appreciate it.



Cami Dinkel, left and Cara Emig, right



**HAPPY Valentine's Day**

[SALINAKANSAS.ORG](http://SALINAKANSAS.ORG)

AVAILABLE IN \$10 AND \$25 GIFT SMOKY HILL SILVER CERTIFICATES TO THE ONES YOU LOVE! CALL 785-827-9301 TO ORDER

Smoky Hill Silver 67401 Salina Area Chamber of Commerce



# WELCOME ABOARD

## **785 AESTHETIC MED SPA**

Dr. Patrick Lucaci  
204 S. Santa Fe, Suite 2  
785-333-4366 • [www.785medspa.com](http://www.785medspa.com)

## **EDUCATIONAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES**

Fred Corn  
119 W. Iron Ave, Fl 3  
785-822-5955 • [www.emsaccess.com](http://www.emsaccess.com)

## **MITI LLC**

Renee Corn  
119 W. Iron, 3rd Floor  
785-822-5955

## **ORAL, FACIAL & IMPLANT SURGERY SALINA**

Dr. Patrick Lucaci  
200 S. Santa Fe Ave  
785-829-8200 • [www.salinaoms.com](http://www.salinaoms.com)

## **ACCURATE ELECTRIC INC.**

Ron Stratman  
1655B Wall St.  
785-825-4010 • [www accuraterelectric.com](http://www accuraterelectric.com)

## **BENNIFER'S**

Jennifer Lopez  
785-770-2151

## **CALLABRESI HEATING & COOLING, INC.**

Scott Krous  
1655B Wall St.  
785-825-42599 • [www.callabresi.com](http://www.callabresi.com)

## **CENTRAL KANSAS ISR**

Emily Komarek  
7400 W. Cloud  
785-787-8065

## **FOULSTON SIEFKIN, LLP**

Eric Sexton  
1551 N. Waterfront Parkway, Suite 100  
316-371-7553 • [www.foulston.com](http://www.foulston.com)

# THANK YOU

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

- ▶ 3J's Steam Cleaning
- ▶ Access Storage, Inc.
- ▶ Ace Hardware Home Center
- ▶ Advance Auto Parts
- ▶ Advantage Trust Company
- ▶ AFK Properties
- ▶ Airgas
- ▶ Alliance Insurance Group
- ▶ American AgCredit
- ▶ American Boiler & Mechanical
- ▶ American Family Insurance - Jeff Wells
- ▶ Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar
- ▶ Arrow Printing Company
- ▶ Ashby House
- ▶ Ashley Furniture Homestore
- ▶ Atop Realty
- ▶ Atwoods Ranch & Home
- ▶ B & K Prescription Shop
- ▶ Monica M. Bachamp, D.O., FACOOG
- ▶ Bamford Fire Sprinkler Co., Inc.
- ▶ Bankers Security
- ▶ The Bath Pub
- ▶ Bayard's Cafe, Inc.
- ▶ Baymont by Wyndham
- ▶ R. Michael Beatty
- ▶ Bell Memorials
- ▶ Bennington State Bank/Salina
- ▶ Benson Accounting, CPA, PA
- ▶ Bergkamp Inc.
- ▶ Big Brothers Big Sisters of Salina
- ▶ Blackwell and Struble
- ▶ Blue Beacon, Inc.
- ▶ Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Kansas
- ▶ Blue Skye Brewery & Eats
- ▶ Bluestem PACE
- ▶ Boy Scouts of America, Coronado Area Council
- ▶ Brookdale Salina Fairdale
- ▶ Brooks Retail Liquor Store
- ▶ Brown's Shoe Fit
- ▶ The Buckle
- ▶ Barton Bycroft, DMD
- ▶ Cabinet Connection
- ▶ Candlewood Suites
- ▶ Capitol Federal Savings
- ▶ Carlson-Geisendorf Funeral Home
- ▶ Carroll's Properties
- ▶ Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas
- ▶ Central Care Cancer Center
- ▶ Central Kansas Extension District #3
- ▶ Central Mall
- ▶ Central Plains Business Forms, Inc.
- ▶ Central Power Systems & Services
- ▶ Chiropractic Wellness Center
- ▶ Christ the King Lutheran Church
- ▶ Chuck Henry Sales, Inc.
- ▶ The City
- ▶ City of Salina
- ▶ CKF Addiction Treatment, Inc.





- ▶ Clark, Mize & Linville, Chtd.
- ▶ Clean Team
- ▶ Coldwell Banker APW Realtors - Chris Rost
- ▶ Commercial Tire Centers, Inc.
- ▶ Complete Floor Covering Inc.
- ▶ ComPro Realty
- ▶ Construction Rental, Inc.
- ▶ Coperion K-Tron Salina
- ▶ Courtyard by Marriott Salina
- ▶ Cozy Inn
- ▶ Crown Distributors
- ▶ Culligan of Salina
- ▶ Daimaru Steak House
- ▶ Dauer Truck Center
- ▶ Days Inn
- ▶ Dental Care of Salina
- ▶ Design Central
- ▶ Daniel K. Diederich, Attorney
- ▶ Dignity Care Home
- ▶ DMA Architects, PA
- ▶ Domestic Violence Association of Central Kansas
- ▶ DRCL Electric, Inc.
- ▶ Drs. Driver & Clark, Optometrist, PA
- ▶ Dynamold Corporation
- ▶ Eagle Technologies
- ▶ Eaglecrest Retirement Community
- ▶ Eccentricity Too
- ▶ Edward Jones - Andrea Pedigo, Financial Advisor
- ▶ Edward Jones - Don Simoneau, Financial Advisor
- ▶ Edward Jones - Matt Dill, Financial Advisor
- ▶ Ellsworth County Independent - Reporter
- ▶ Equity Bank
- ▶ EyeCare Associates of Salina
- ▶ Farmers & Ranchers Livestock Commission
- ▶ First Bank Kansas
- ▶ First United Methodist Church
- ▶ Five Guys Burgers & Fries
- ▶ Foley Equipment Company Dave Freeland, CPA
- ▶ Ginder Hydraulic, L.C.
- ▶ Glassman Corporation
- ▶ Grain Belt Supply Company
- ▶ Graves Farms
- ▶ Great Plains Association of REALTORS®
- ▶ Great Plains Federal Credit Union
- ▶ GreatLife Golf & Fitness
- ▶ Hampton & Royce
- ▶ Harbin Construction
- ▶ Hassman Termite & Pest Control
- ▶ Hearing Life
- ▶ Heartland Dermatology Center, PA
- ▶ 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
- ▶ Hutton
- ▶ Imperial Garden Express
- ▶ Iron Insurance Partners
- ▶ Jensen Properties
- ▶ Johnstown Towers Apartments
- ▶ Ka-Comm Inc.
- ▶ KanEquip
- ▶ Kansas Secured Title
- ▶ Keating & Associates
- ▶ K-Four Trailer Sales
- ▶ KRVN Radio
- ▶ KU School of Medicine - Salina
- ▶ KWCH
- ▶ Lancaster Construction, Inc.
- ▶ Land Title Services, Inc.
- ▶ LaQuinta Inn & Suites
- ▶ Lee Haworth Construction Co., Inc.
- ▶ Long & Associates Public Accountants, Inc.
- ▶ Longshot Enterprises
- ▶ Luminous Neon, Art & Sign Systems
- ▶ Lundgrin Dental Associates
- ▶ Mahaska
- ▶ McKenna Law Office, P.A.
- ▶ MDF Industries
- ▶ Mead Lumber of Salina
- ▶ Meridian Media
- ▶ Mid-Kansas Title Co., Inc.
- ▶ Millwood Realty
- ▶ Miracle Ear
- ▶ Money Automotive Center
- ▶ Morrison Ventures
- ▶ Morton Buildings, Inc.
- ▶ Mowery Clinic
- ▶ My Lawn! Turf & Tree
- ▶ Neustrom & Associates, PA
- ▶ Nex-Tech
- ▶ North Central KS Coordinated Transit Council, Inc
- ▶ Oakdale Plaza Apartments
- ▶ OCCK, Inc.
- ▶ Occupational Performance Corporation
- ▶ Old Chicago Pizza and Taproom
- ▶ Papa Murphy's
- ▶ Parkwood Family Dental

*Continued on page 8*



Continued from page 7

- ▶ Pettle's Flowers,
- ▶ Pickel & Bruckner
- ▶ Pinion
- ▶ PKM Steel Service, Inc.
- ▶ Prairie Capital Advisors, Inc.
- ▶ Prairie Landworks, Inc.
- ▶ Precision Machine & Welding Inc.
- ▶ Premier Food Service
- ▶ Pronto Print
- ▶ Quality Inn & Suites
- ▶ Mike Ramage
- ▶ Real Estate Appraisal Services
- ▶ Riddle's Jewelry
- ▶ Riffel Development Company Inc.
- ▶ Rolling Hills Zoo
- ▶ Ryan Mortuary
- ▶ Salina Area Technical College
- ▶ Salina Art Center & Cinema
- ▶ Salina Arts & Humanities
- ▶ Salina Blueprint & Micrographic Systems, Inc.
- ▶ Salina Child Care Association
- ▶ 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 Massage Therapy
- ▶ Salina Mini Storage
- ▶ Salina Ortho
- ▶ Salina Presbyterian Manor
- ▶ Salina Public Library
- ▶ Salina Regional Home Medical Services
- ▶ Salina Supply Company
- ▶ Salina Surgical Hospital
- ▶ Salina Symphony
- ▶ Salina Urology Associates
- ▶ Salina Vortex Corporation
- ▶ SalinaHomes.com - Todd Welsh
- ▶ The Salvation Army
- ▶ Sam's Club
- ▶ Sanity Boutique
- ▶ Sankey Auto Center, Inc.
- ▶ The Scoular Company
- ▶ Seraphim Bread
- ▶ ServiceMaster of Salina
- ▶ Showcase Jewelers
- ▶ Sign Pro of Central Kansas
- ▶ Smoky Hill Appraisal
- ▶ Smoky Hill Education Service Center
- ▶ Smoky Hill Museum
- ▶ Smoky Hill Vineyards & Winery, Inc.
- ▶ Smoky Hill
- ▶ Smoky River Meats
- ▶ Snack Express
- ▶ Southwind Physical Therapy, Inc.
- ▶ Stardust Trophy Company
- ▶ State Farm - Robert Pruett Agency, Inc.
- ▶ Stiefel Theatre for the Performing Arts
- ▶ Stutzman Greenhouse, Inc.
- ▶ Sunflower Adult Day Services
- ▶ Sunflower Bank, N.A.
- ▶ Sunflower Restaurant Supply
- ▶ Sunset Properties, Inc.
- ▶ Super 8 I-70
- ▶ Sure Check Brokerage
- ▶ Team Employment
- ▶ The Bank of Tescott
- ▶ The Ridge of Salina
- ▶ Tier 1 Financial
- ▶ Triangle Trucking
- ▶ Truck Center Companies
- ▶ Twin Oaks Industries, Inc.
- ▶ UMB Bank
- ▶ United Capital Management of Kansas, Inc.
- ▶ United Radiology Group
- ▶ The UPS Store
- ▶ USD 305 School District
- ▶ Valmont Coatings Salina Galvanizing
- ▶ Vanderbilt's
- ▶ Vernon Jewelers of Salina, Inc.
- ▶ Volunteers of America, OK
- ▶ Waddle's Heating & Cooling
- ▶ Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.
- ▶ Waters Hardware
- ▶ Webster Conference Center
- ▶ Gary B. Weiner, MD, Chtd
- ▶ Weis Fire & Safety Equipment
- ▶ Wells Fargo Advisors
- ▶ Wilson & Company
- ▶ Woods & Durham, Chtd.
- ▶ World Pest Control (Tox-Eol)
- ▶ Wray Roofing
- ▶ Yesteryear Museum

*Thank You*





# In The News



Several local restaurants have partnered to present "Restaurant Week", January 30-February 5. Participants include Barolo Grille, Cozy Inn, Tucson's Steakhouse, YaYa's Euro Bistro, Martinelli's Little Italy and Renaissance Cafe. The restaurants invite everyone to join them for the first time or for the hundredth time! Specials will be featured throughout the week. A portion of the proceeds will benefit Salina Shares. Learn more [here!](#)



**The Yard**, in partnership with The Yard Charities, will present 5 Days of Development featuring three major league coaches February 15-19. Sharing their expertise will be Joe Dominak, Ray Burris and Orv Franchuk. This will be open to all baseball players, age 8+, and will have a 4:1 coach ratio. Players may come to one session of the entire clinic. Early registration ends February 5. For more information call 785-201-9287, email [salinabaseball@gmail.com](mailto:salinabaseball@gmail.com) or register today.

## GOT NEWS?

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

**Salina Presbyterian Manor** has opened a Call for Art 2023 for their 2023 Art is Ageless program. The exhibit will be held March 7-9 (11am-5pm on 3/7&8; 11am-1pm on 3/9) at Homewood Suites by Hilton, Salina Downtown, 115 E. Mulberry. The event is open to area artists 65 and older, amateur and professional, to be juried. Non-juried artists of all ages are welcome to exhibit. Entry deadline to submit work is February 17, and you may enter online at [ArtisAgeless.org](http://ArtisAgeless.org). For more information, contact Cathy Boos at 785-825-1366.



Put your creativity to the test while supporting a noble and local cause. **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Salina** is excited for the return of Pin and Ink Art Showcase on Monday, February 27th from 5-7pm at the Stiefel Theatre Watson Room. Local artists of all ages and skill levels are invited to display their talent at this free, family-friendly gallery exhibit. Bowling pins can be picked up at the Big Brothers Big Sisters office (500 Kenwood Park Dr.) Monday-Thursday 9am-6pm or Friday 9am-12pm. All decorated bowling pins are due back to BBBS by February 22nd. Join them at the Stiefel Theatre Watson Room on Monday, February 27 from 5-7pm for the Pin and Ink Showcase! Appetizers, drinks, and a silent auction featuring unique pieces of bowling pin art! All proceeds will benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters of Salina.



# SACC MEMBER ORIENTATION

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED,  
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

**TIME AND DATE**  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8  
12:00PM-1:00PM

**LOCATION**  
VISIT SALINA ANNEX

**REGISTER NOW**  
785-827-9301  
[www.salinakansas.org](http://www.salinakansas.org)  
120 W. Ash Street  
Salina, KS 67401  
[afinan@salinakansas.org](mailto:afinan@salinakansas.org)



# Download the

# SALINA 67401

# App!



Featuring the NEW Visit Salina Guide,  
SalinaAE.com Calendar, Chamber Business  
Directory, Special Offers and MORE!



# Marquee Welcomes

## February

- 4 Boys' World Class Basketball Tournament (Salina Fieldhouse)
- 5 Girls' World Class Basketball Tournament (Salina Fieldhouse)
- 11 Kansas Youth Basketball Tournament (Salina Fieldhouse)  
Sharp Performance Youth Football Camp (Salina Fieldhouse)
- 18 MAYB Basketball Tournament (Salina Fieldhouse)
- 25 XWE Pro Wrestling (Salina Fieldhouse)
- 22-23 KSHSAA 4A-1A Girls State Wrestling Tournaments (Tony's Pizza Event Center)
- 24-25 KSHSAA 4A Boys State Wrestling Tournaments (Tony's Pizza Events Center)

## March

- 4 HOA March Madness Volleyball Tournament (Salina Fieldhouse)



The **City of Salina** has an opening on the Convention and Tourism Advisory Committee. This group meets monthly - generally the second Tuesday - at 7:30am. Meeting consists of reports from the Visit Salina staff, the Chamber CEO, and tourism partners from across the community. Presentations about the tourism industry, local trends, and pertinent projects are also a part of agendas. If you are interested in applying for a committee seat, you may do so [here](#).

## KSHSAA State Wrestling

Salina is pleased to host the KSHSAA State Wrestling Tournaments at Tony's Pizza Events Center February 22-25, 2023. The Class 4A-1A Girls' Tournaments will take place Wednesday and Thursday, February 22-23. From throughout the state, 224 female wrestlers will be competing in 14 different weight classes. The 4A State Boys Tournaments will be held Friday and Saturday, February 24-25, where 224 male wrestlers will compete in 14 different weight classes. State competitors earn their seed by qualifying at the regional tournaments. In each weight class, 16 wrestlers will qualify to compete for the opportunity to win a state championship.

*"The KSHSAA is honored to host the girls' 4A-1A and boys' Class 4A state wrestling tournaments in Salina. The city of Salina, Visit Salina, and The Tony's Pizza Events Center have been amazing partners for the KSHSAA, the member schools represented, the participants, families of the participants and the communities of Kansas for these two great events."*

Mark Lentz, Asst. Executive Director - KSHSAA

For more information about the event, including tickets and results go to [www.tonypizzaeventcenter.com](http://www.tonypizzaeventcenter.com) or <https://www.kshsaa.org/Public/Wrestling/Main.cfm>

## State Tourism Grants Opening for Submissions!



Kansas Tourism provides grants to help Kansas not-for-profit organizations, government agencies, and for-profit businesses build and promote attractions in the state.

The Attraction Development Grant Program (ADGP) is designed to assist in the development of sustainable, market-driven travel experiences within the state that will influence destination travel decisions by identified travel customers, creating economic impact resulting from the creation of jobs, capital investment, revenue and visitation in Kansas. The 2023 ADGP application will be open for submissions on February 1 with a deadline of March 31. A copy of printable guidelines can be downloaded [here](#).

The Tourism Marketing Grant Program (TMGP) was developed as an ongoing grant program designed to assist organizations in innovative, dedicated advertising and marketing. The 2023 Tourism Marketing Grant application will be open for submissions on June 1, with a deadline of August 1. A copy of printable guidelines can be downloaded [here](#).

Questions? Contact Taylor Hartshorn, Fiscal, Grant & Research Manager at the Kansas Department of Commerce Tourism office, 785-249-0182



# \$It Pays to Attend\$



Dave Freeland, left, won the \$250 Attendance Prize and James Lambert, right, won BBQ Dinner for 25 people, courtesy of VYPE at their Business After Hours.



Winners of the Salina Area Technical College Business After Hours included Salina Area Technical College Gift Basket Winners Chris Muck and Jason Bathon, with Greg Nichols Presidents of SATC, and Ben Mendez, Winner of the \$250 Attendance Prize.

## 2023 Business After Hours Schedule

| Date   | Host  | Date    | Host                                      |
|--------|---|---------|---|
| Feb 2  | Salina Downtown, Inc.                           | June 22 | Wedel Financial Group                     |
| Feb 16 | Brown's Shoe Fit                                | July 13 | First Bank Kansas                         |
| Mar 9  | Crown Distributors, LLC                         | July 27 | JAB IT                                    |
| Mar 16 |   | Aug 10  | H and R Block                             |
| Apr 6  | Long McArthur                                   | Aug 24  | Salina Art Center                         |
| Apr 20 | Superior Contracting and Manufacturing Services | Sept 7  | Presbyterian Manor                        |
| May 4  | Big Booty Trudy's                               | Sept 21 | The Buckle                                |
|        | Speakeasy & Cigar Bar                           | Oct 5   | Salina Family Healthcare                  |
| May 18 | Gentiva Hospice                                 | Oct 19  | SSC                                       |
| June 8 | NO BAH - SMOKY HILL RIVER FESTIVAL              | Nov 2   | Saline County - New Sheriff's Office/Jail |
|        |   | Dec 7   | The Bath Pub                              |

- Dates and/or Business Hosts are subject to change
- \$5.00 Admission Fee or Fast Pass
- Each BAH has the following schedule unless otherwise expressed:
  - 5-6pm Networking/Social Opportunities
  - 6pm Host Announcements; Chamber of Commerce Announcements; \$250 Attendance Drawing (*must be present to win*); Optional drawings from the Host (*must be present to win*)
  - 6:15-7pm Networking/Social Opportunities

Communication regarding Business After Hours will be posted on our Facebook page and Twitter, as well as sent through Bi-Weekly emails and our monthly Chamber Connection newsletter.



VISIT SALINA

# BUSINESS after HOURS

**Thursday, February 2**  
Salina Downtown  
134 S. Santa Fe, Ste. 120  
5-7pm



Salina Downtown Inc. is currently the only Designated Kansas Mainstreet that is also a Business Improvement District. *It is their mission to champion a healthy and vibrant downtown community!* Come check out their new location. In addition to the Chamber's \$250 attendance drawing, SDI will be providing a "Begin, Spend & End your day in Downtown Salina" gift basket for a drawing as well!

**Thursday, February 16**  
Brown's Shoe Fit  
2150 Planet Ave.  
5-7pm



Brown's Shoe Fit Co. has been a local business in Salina since 1967. Featuring all your footwear needs for popular Hey Dudes, Hoka and Brooks running shoes, and work boots. They work with local businesses to provide discounts to their employees. They provide a true "Sit and Fit" experience. In addition to the chamber \$250.00 attendance drawing, Brown's is generously providing a door prize - a chance to win a pair of shoes!

REFRESHMENTS – TOURS – DOOR PRIZES

## \$It Pays to Attend\$

**DOOR PRIZES (MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN)**  
**\$250 CASH ATTENDANCE DRAWING**

For reservations call (785) 827-9301 or email [dsmith@salinakansas.org](mailto:dsmith@salinakansas.org)

## BUSINESS

After Hours

2023 FAST PASS

On Sale now for \$50!

Your Fast Pass is your admittance to every BAH event in 2023. Otherwise, admission is \$5 at the entrance.

CONTACT STEPHANIE at: [sqillig@salinakansas.org](mailto:sqillig@salinakansas.org) or 785.827.9310 ext. 234 to order yours!