



**CHAMBER CONNECTIONS**

MISSION STATEMENT

The Raytown Area Chamber of Commerce supports our business community to enhance the quality of life for our citizens.

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Follow us on:



*May each of our members have a  
Safe & Happy Holiday Season!  
Our sincere Thanks  
for your commitment  
& good will throughout the year!*

The 2014 Board of Directors

**Loretha Hayden**, Chair of the Board  
Lutfi's Fried Fish

**Mark Smith**, Chair Elect  
Dick Smith Ford

**Michelle Williams**, Secretary/Treasurer  
Mission of Hope Clinic

**Shawna Burns**, Past Chair  
Commerce Bank

**Jeff Hirst**, At Large Member  
Four Points by Sheraton

**Meshelle Bishop**, At Large Member  
Cornerstone Home Improvement

**Chris Payne**, At Large Member  
Monopoly Acquisitions LLC

Board Members

**Kaylie Baker**  
Rok'it Advertising

**Patrick Searcy**  
Power On Technologies

Staff  
**Vicki Turnbow**  
President

**Pam Clark**  
Clark's Appliances

**Bruce Stansberry**  
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**Kyle Phillips**  
Operations Manager

**Pat Ertz**  
Public Water Supply Dist. #2

**Derek Ward**  
KCP&L

**Steve Mock**  
City of Raytown

**Mahesh Sharma**, Liaison  
City of Raytown

**Andy Powelson**  
Civic Member

**Dr. Allan Markley**, Liaison  
Raytown Quality Schools

**Rene Purtee**  
Arvest Bank

**Steve Guenther**, Liaison  
Raytown Main Street Assoc.



**2014 RAYTOWN CORPORATE SPONSORS**

**COMCAST  
BUSINESS**

  
**Advanced Eyecare**  
**Blue Springs Optical**

 **GARRISON  
& ASSOCIATES Inc.**



WWW.THINKRAYTOWNFIRST.COM

## THINK RAYTOWN FIRST



Do you want to know what is happening in Raytown?

Go to [www.ThinkRaytownFirst.com](http://www.ThinkRaytownFirst.com) and click on the Community Calendar. There is also a place to sign up to receive future emails about What's Happening in Raytown! The Community Survey is still on the website. We want to know what you know about Raytown. If you are on Facebook, please go out and like Think Raytown First and spread the word. Don't forget the Raytown Chamber also has a Facebook page and a Twitter account. Stay up to date on all that is happening in the Raytown Chamber as well as the community in general.

### Board of Directors

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Lutfi's Fried Fish

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Dick Smith Ford

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**Steve Guenther**, Liaison

Raytown Main Street Assoc.

### Staff

**Vicki Turnbow**, President

president@raytownchamber.com

**Kyle Phillips**, Operations Manager

kphillips@raytownchamber.com

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

As the Chamber prepares for 2015, we take a look back at 2014. Everything from a long overdue membership drive to a Senior Celebration, your Chamber staff has worked hard to bring you quality speakers and all the networking events you can handle. 2015 will not disappoint you. This summer the Raytown Chamber Board of Directors approved a 5% across the board increase. Be watching in the envelope with your membership renewal for a list of the benefits you receive as a member. Take a moment to look over the list, there may be something on it, you didn't know you were eligible to take advantage of.

With the holiday season upon us, remember to *Think Raytown First* when out there shopping. The Chamber's service area includes the school district boundaries so don't forget to look for gift items at those members as well.

The office will be closed on Monday December 8 and for the holidays, Thursday and Friday December 25 and 26 along with Thursday and Friday, January 1 and 2.

Don't forget to stop by the **After Hours Networking, Thu. Dec. 4, at Extreme Grand Prix!**

My door is always open, come by anytime!

*Vicki Turnbow, President*



November 16 the Chamber celebrated its 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary! On March 26, 1925 seventeen men met and formed the Raytown Commercial Club. They set dues at \$.10 per week and a onetime fee of \$.50. The order of business was to set committees and vote on officers. By July 1929, the Commercial Club voted to incorporate and change the name to Raytown Chamber of

Commerce. In 1974, the Chamber voted to increase their service area and adopted the school district boundaries and changed the name to Raytown Area Chamber of Commerce.

Since 1929, there has been seventy-seven men who served as the President/Chair and eight women. With the purchase of the property located at the corner of 59<sup>th</sup> and Raytown Trafficway, in the early 90's, the Chamber set up a Building Foundation and raised money to build a new home for the Chamber and pay it off. Even from the beginning the Chamber has been an advocate for the business community. We continue to look for ways to help you the member market your business, meet new customers or clients and give you the opportunity to grow personally.

Thank you all for being a Chamber member and we look forward to many more years of service to you our members and the community we serve.

# THANK YOU TO OUR 2014 SPONSORS!!!

With the year coming to a close, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all the networking event and luncheon sponsors for their support. The luncheon programs were very successful this year in part due to their sponsorships. The networking events have been a great way for businesses to get together on the way to the office. We would also like to thank all the businesses that donated items to go into the speaker thank you bags.

## MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON SPONSORS

- |                                                            |                                              |
|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| January - KCP&L                                            | February - KCP&L                             |
| March - Two Rivers Behavioral Health System                | April - Dick Smith Ford                      |
| May - The Bordner Event Center                             | June - Comcast Business                      |
| July - Arvest Bank                                         | August - Raytown Three Trails Kiwanis Club   |
| September - Westridge Gardens Rehabilitation & Care Center | November - Aviation Institute of Maintenance |
| October - Southeast Enterprises                            |                                              |

## LUNCHEON SPEAKER THANK YOU GIFT

Rok'it Advertising - Four Points by Sheraton - Awards & T-Shirt Specialists - PWSD#2 - Applebee's CareSpot - HyVee - Personal Care Dental Group - Comcast - Commerce Bank - SERC Physical & Hand Therapy

## MORNING COFFEE SPONSORS

- |                                  |                               |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| January - The Bordner            | February - First Federal Bank |
| March - Bickford Assisted Living | April - Westridge Gardens     |
| May - Metcalf Bank               | July - Center 63 Boutique     |
| August - Home Skillet Cafe       | September - PWSD#2            |
| October - Southeast Enterprises  | November - Home Skillet Cafe  |

## AFTER HOURS SPONSORS

- |                               |                          |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| March - Lutfi's Fried Fish    | April - goodbidding.org  |
| May - Wing Stop               | Thrift & Flea            |
| June - The Bordner            | August - Four Points     |
| September - Fun House Pizza   | By Sheraton              |
| October - Rok'it Advertising  | November - ServPro of LS |
| December - Extreme Grand Prix |                          |

**WANTED:** Again next year we will be putting together a thank you gift bag to give to each speaker at the membership luncheons. If you are interested in donating 12 items, please contact the Chamber office. We would like to have all the items collected by January 12, 2015.

# MEMBER MARKET



**Blue Ridge**  
AUTO - TRUCK PLAZA

816-358-6500

6824 Blue Ridge Blvd. • Raytown, MO 64133  
[www.blueridgeautos.com](http://www.blueridgeautos.com)

**U-HAUL**  
Now available at this location



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

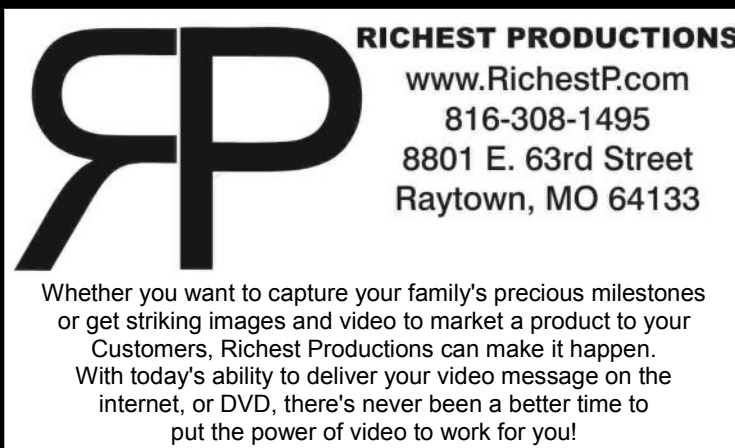
**NEED A RENTAL HALL?**

PARTIES ~ DANCES ~ RECEPTIONS ~ MEETINGS

SERVING THE GREATER KC AREA, THE HALL IS CONVENIENTLY LOCATED 1 1/2 MILES SOUTH OF THE TRUMAN SPORTS COMPLEX ON BLUE RIDGE CUTOFF AT SNI-A-BAR ROAD.

OFFICE HOURS: TUE.~SAT. 8AM~12PM

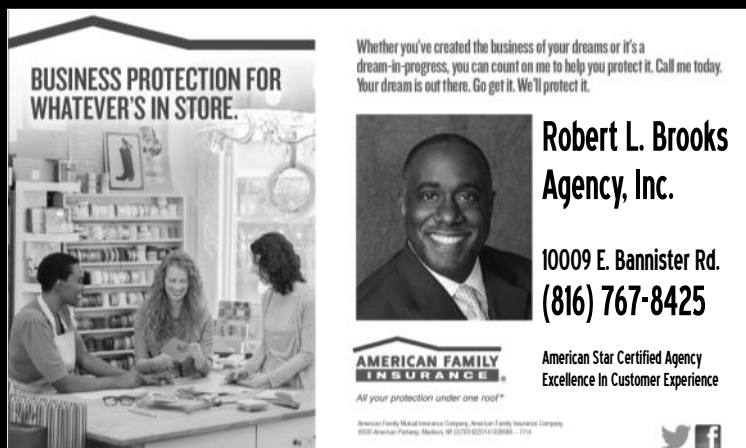
5101 BLUE RIDGE CUTOFF 816-356-4962



**RP** **RICHEST PRODUCTIONS**

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## Raytown Three Trails Kiwanis Installs New Officers

### “A Year of Success in Service”

On October 9, 2014, the Raytown Three Trails Kiwanis Club held their annual installation of new officers. The new officers Brenda Gustafson, President, Elaine Schulze, Past President, John Benson, Vice President, Mary Lee Skitek, Secretary, Carrie West, Treasurer, at-large board members, Martha Cockerell and Darryl Pitts were installed by our Lt. District Governor Gary Logan. Many thanks were extended to our outgoing President, Elaine Schulze for her vision and tireless efforts to change the lives of children in our community.

During the installation ceremony, the club reflected on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Kiwanis this year. The club has taken to heart the role of servant leaders and our mission; “Focusing on changing the world by serving children, one child and one community at a time.” Kiwanis is home to the largest youth service programs in the world. Our local club empowers school students, elementary through college, by teaching leadership through service to others. This year the club will sponsor three Raytown High School students for student leadership camp as well as sponsoring college scholarships for our High School Seniors.



### Raytown Service Projects

Our Youth Programs include:

- Key Club, for high school students, is the oldest and largest service organization for teens, teaches leadership through service to others.
- Builders Club for middle school students, provides students with opportunities to develop leadership, improve self-esteem, increase civic engagement and learn life skills through service.
- Kiwanis Terrific Kids for elementary students provides students the opportunity to develop leadership potential and create strong moral character.

A few of the other local service projects our club sponsors are *Pumpkins On Parade*, *Teen Moms Club*, *Mothers Day Project* (donating items for REAP that are not covered by WIC) *Parents As Teachers*, *Relay for Life*, *Young Child Priority*, *Raytown School Foundation*, *Summer Lunch Program*, *Boys and Girls Club*. *Raytown Project Grad* (both high schools). *Cave Springs Historic Site and Nature Trail and Embracing Education*.

We also volunteer and donate to support Kiwanis' national and international service programs. This year we:

- Helped raise almost \$1 million for children's cancer research through *Alex's Lemonade Stand*.
- Raised over \$6000 for the *Eliminate Project*. This project will make a profound and historic impact on MNT (maternal neonatal tetanus) a disease that kills one baby every nine minutes. We have partnered with UNICEF to help implement immunization activities to eliminate this disease. Globally, Kiwanis has raised over \$110 million to make this goal a reality.

We raise funds for these projects through our Annual Golf Tournament and our Annual Trivia Night.

### About Kiwanis

Kiwanis clubs, located in 80 nations, help their communities in countless ways. Each community's needs are different—so each Kiwanis club is different. By working together, members achieve what one person cannot accomplish alone. When you give a child the chance to learn, experience, dream, grow, succeed and thrive, great things happen. Our vision partners include landscape structures, creating innovative playground equipment; Nickelodeon, inspiring kids to take action and make a difference in the world; the U.S. Army's Key Leader program, helping high school students to improve performance on standardized tests.

Raytown Three Trails Kiwanis meets twice a month at noon at the UMB Bank on Raytown Road.



**Raytown  
Three Trails  
Kiwanis Club**



## CHAMBER RENEWALS

**Bordner Installation Group, Inc.**  
1990 Rob Poettgen

**The Bordner Event Center**  
2011 Christina Calderon

☺ **Walmart 1991** Denise Levesque

**Don Merker 2011**

☺ **Full Employment Council (KC)**  
1997 Clyde McQueen

☺ **Missouri Career Center-FEC**  
2007 Richard Salazar, Steve Dempsey,  
Harry Gray, Carla Major

**Raytown Rotary Club 2001**  
**Metropolitan Community**  
**College - Longview 1991**  
Linda Nelson, Rachel Casey

**SonRise Lawn & Tree 2012**  
Jared Siems

☺ **Commerce Bank 1989**  
Shawna Burns

☺ *We would like to thank  
our members who gave 110%.*

**THE EXAMINER**  
**Lisa Holiman**  
410 S. Liberty  
Independence MO 64050  
816-254-8600  
Lisa.holiman@examiner.net  
Examiner.net  
Newspaper/Publications  
Recruited by Vicki Turnbow

## NEW CHAMBER MEMBERS

**HGK CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT, INC.**  
**Stephen E. Guenther**  
6532 Blue Ridge Cutoff  
Raytown MO 64133  
816-356-7022  
ssirw@hotmail.com  
Construction  
Recruited by  
Guenther Mills Keating Architects

**AUTOMAX KC**  
**Alex Aklagi**  
11900 E. State Route 350  
Raytown MO 64138  
816-353-9000  
AutoMaxKC@gmail.com  
AutoMaxKC.com  
Automobile Dealer  
Recruited by Mike McDonough

*Welcome!*



## BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT ON...



**Under the same ownership for 31 years**

**Address:** 6824 Blue Ridge Blvd. Raytown MO 64133

**Phone:** 816-358-6500 **Web:** blueridgeautos.com

**Email:** blueridgeauto6824@gmail.com

**Founded:** Nov. 1983

**Chamber Member since:** 1996

**# Employees:** 20

**Hours:** 8:00am-8:00pm

**Services/Products:** We sell pre-owned cars and trucks. We also have a service facility, parts department and body shop at this location. We now rent U-Haul trucks and trailers.

**Future Plans:** Continue serving Raytown and the surrounding communities when they shop for vehicles or need service.

**Business Philosophy:** Customer Satisfaction is #1! We have a loyal customer base because we put them first. They reward us with repeat referral business.

**We are a Chamber Member because:** We want to support Raytown, network with other area businesses and give back to our community.



## SOUTHEAST ENTERPRISES HOLIDAY LIGHT RECYCLING DRIVE

How will these collected old holiday lights help Southeast Enterprises? Lights collected will provide employment opportunity for our employees. The light bulbs are clipped from the wire and separated. The wire then goes to City Scrap Metal to be recycled. The rebate we receive from the wire pays our employee wages. We use this work when other contract work is not available.

This year, Southeast is excited to build on its success and collect over 60,000 pounds of lights with the help from many sponsors and partners. If you're thinkin' green, sponsor or drop off your lights at any of participating locations! Check out where to find your local drop site visit [www.kcrecyclelights.com](http://www.kcrecyclelights.com).

# Our Members in the News

**Morning Coffee Networking at ...**



**Home Skillet  
Café & Catering**

**6225 Blue Ridge Blvd.**



**AFTER HOURS NETWORKING AT ...**



**SERVPRO OF  
LEE'S SUMMIT**

**1228 CENTURY DR.  
LSMO**



The official groundbreaking ceremony was held on October 28 for stadium improvement work at Raytown South High School.

Pictured here, members of the Board of Education, Superintendent Dr. Allan Markley, architects for the project, and project manager Assistant Superintendent Dr. Travis Hux.

Congratulations to Bickford Assisted Living on the inside improvements and the addition of their own assisted living designation. The interior had to be made fire safe with the second level being enclosed with specialized windows. A large group of Chamber members and residents were on hand for the ribbon cutting.



## Upcoming Member Events

### RAYTOWN HOLIDAY LIGHTING CEREMONY

Fri. December 5 at 6:00pm Downtown Raytown 63rd Street & Raytown Road

**SPONSORED BY**

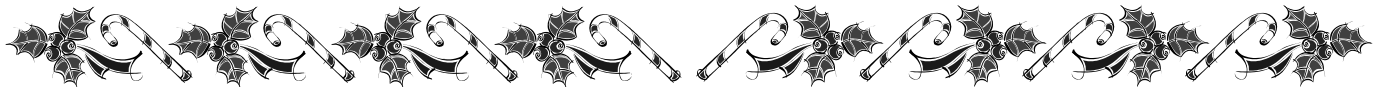
Raytown Main Street Association  
City of Raytown ~ Raytown Parks & Recreation  
Raytown Quality Schools ~ Raytown Area Chamber of Commerce



## DECEMBER MORNING COFFEE

Mark your calendars: **Tues., Dec. 16** - this "Morning Coffee" will be a special **HOLIDAY CELEBRATION** held at the **Raytown Area Chamber of Commerce, 5909 Raytown Trafficway**. Come by anytime between 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. to have a cup of coffee and network with other businesses within the community. An added bonus will be to let us thank you for your membership over the past year!

**So stop by and start spreading some Holiday Cheer!**



## JANUARY A.M. CONNECTIONS NETWORKING

The next "A.M. Connections" event will be held at **DSB SERVICES, 10310 E. 63RD TERR.** Come by anytime between **7:30 to 8:30 a.m.** to network with other businesses within the community. An added bonus will be to see the business who has agreed to host the event and find out what they can offer to you!



## UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEONS

### 2014 Chamber Celebration

**WHEN: Wednesday, January 28, 2015**

**WHERE: Four Points by Sheraton**  
4011 Blue Ridge Cutoff

\$21.00 per person - RSVP by Monday, Jan. 26

**CELEBRATION SPONSOR: KCP&L**

**LUNCHEON SPONSOR:**

Central Bank of the Midwest

### STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

**Mayor David Bower**

**WHEN: Wednesday, February 25, 2015**

**WHERE: First Baptist Church of Raytown,**  
10500 E. 350 Highway

\$21.00 per person - RSVP by Monday, Feb. 23

**LUNCHEON SPONSOR: KCP&L**

## OPERATION THANK YOU!

The Board of Directors will be personally delivering the **2015 Community Profile and Membership Directory** starting in January.

This is a way for us to say thank you for your membership and continued support. If you would like to help with Operation Thank You please let us know. This is a great way to introduce yourselves to your fellow Chamber members.





5909 RAYTOWN TRAFFICWAY  
RAYTOWN, MO 64133-3860

816-353-8500 FAX 816-353-8525  
www.RaytownChamber.com

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DATED MATERIAL



# DECEMBER 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Check your weekly Chamber Connections C-mail for an up-to-date calendar	1	2	3 12:00pm Member Services - Recruitment Cmte.	4  After Hours 4:30pm	5 Raytown Holiday Lighting Ceremony	6
7  NATIONAL PEARL HARBOR Remembrance Day	8 Chamber Closed	9	10	11 7:15am Board of Directors & Board Retreat	12	13
14	15	16 7:30am Holiday Morning Coffee  Hanukkah	17	18	19	20
21 Winter	22	23	24 	25 Chamber Closed	26 Chamber Closed	27
28	29	30	31 HAPPY NEW YEAR	Jan. 1 Chamber Closed	Jan. 2 Chamber Closed	