



Chamber Connections

2024 October Newsletter



Raytown's Festival of the Trails at the Rice-Tremonti Home

Dave Thurman

2024 Corporate Sponsors



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Board of Directors

Robert Atkins, Chair
Farmers Insurance Agency
Co-Chair - *Vacant*

Jourdan Price, Secretary/Treasurer
Personal Care Dental Group

Patrick Nelson, Past Chair
Red Tail Academy

At Large Members

Chiki Thompson
Raytown Water

Board Members

Me'Shelle Bishop
Cornerstone Home Improvements

Kory Brinton
Brinton Electric

Theresa Garza
Spire Missouri, Inc.

Carmen Kraus
Connection Point Church

Mackenzie Peters
Mack Curio Creations

Brian Ross
Edward Jones

Jason Sneddon
Greater Kc Homes

Zac Sweets
Everygy

April Harrington, Liaison
Raytown Main Street Assoc.

Chief Matt Mace, Liaison
Raytown Fire Protection Dist.

Dr. Penelope Martin-Knox, Liaison
Raytown Quality Schools

Dr. Ryan Crider, Liaison
Metropolitan Community College - Longview

Missy Wilson, Liaison
City of Raytown

Staff

Jeff Hirst, President
president@raytownchamber.com

Michelle Williams,
Operations Coordinator
staff@raytownchamber.com

3

Member Market

4

This Month's Luncheon

5

2025 Chamber Directory & Guide

6

Ribbon Cutting @ Adv Chiropractic

7

Truman Heartland Gala

8

September Monthly Membership Luncheon

9

Members Making News

10

Raytown Makers

12

New Members & Renewals

12

Class of 2027 & 2025 Board Officers

13

Looking Ahead & Adopt-A-Street

14

October Lunch & Learn: Raytown Workforce

14

Talk Raytown - Cpt Jared Rogers

15

October Membership Calendar



Knights of Columbus®

NEED A RENTAL HALL?

PARTIES ~ DANCES ~ RECEPTIONS ~ MEETINGS

OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY - SATURDAY 9 - 11 A.M.

EMAIL: PIUSHOLDING@OUTLOOK.COM

HTTP://WWW.PARTYPOP.COM/VENDOR/4047872

5101 BLUE RIDGE CUTOFF 816-356-4962



Locally Owned & Operated
Business with a
Customer First Priority

**Electronic Security 24/7 Residential & Commercial
Customers in KC Metropolitan Area**

816-560-7307

www.wardtechnologykc.com



PERFECT PARTY FAVORS FOR YOUR NEXT EVENT!!

Capture the funny side of you or your loved ones!

Special: 15% off your first event or purchase if you mention this ad!

call 816-535-7928
or visit our website!

drawyoupretty.my.canva.site



GFL Environmental Inc
7801 E Truman Road
Kansas City, MO 64126

Norbert Love

Account Executive Sales Representative

Email: norbert.love@gflenv.com

C: (816) 341-7680



EMPLOYEE BENEFITS



EXCLUSIVE CHAMBER MEMBER INSURANCE PROGRAM

Save on group medical coverage and more with this exclusive program.

Why pay more for coverage when there are better options available to you as a Chamber member? You and your employees deserve the best insurance benefits at the best possible price. We can improve your program now – don't wait any longer. Call today!

- Savings for groups of 5 to 5,000 enrolled
- Exclusive group medical insurance programs
- In addition to medical, discounts available on dental, vision, disability, life, critical illness, accident, and pet
- Fully insured, level funded, and self-insured composite rates
- HSA / FSA/ COBRA Administration
- Ongoing support from your dedicated account team, access to our HR Help Desk, and compliance support
- Online reporting and enrollment services
- Onsite open enrollment



Kent Friend

Employee Benefits and Property & Casualty Consultant

kfriend@bukaty.com

P: 913.777.7535

C: 816.803.7406

F: 913.345.2608





RAYTOWN
QUALITY
SCHOOLS
Expect the Exceptional

OCTOBER MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON

“State of the Schools Address & Annual Meeting”

with Dr. Martin-Knox

Superintendent - Raytown Quality Schools



October 23rd, 2024 - Raytown Wellness Center
Registration Required

Sponsored by the Raytown Educational Foundation

RAYTOWN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM RAYTOWN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM

TALK

ZAC SWEETS **MARTIN-KNOX**

YouTube **Spotify**

LOOKING TOWARDS
2026



2025 RAYTOWN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNUAL COMMUNITY PROFILE AND CHAMBER DIRECTORY



CONTACT:
Tammie Eason
teason@tspubsdigital.com
417-629-7935

Print + Digital Directory

Digital Directory with many features like:
Interactive Table of Contents plus jump to any page

- + Tap to Read articles, no zooming in & out
- + Searchable Member Directory with links
- + Ads can be directly linked to website

Digital allows a greater reach and permits us to utilize the latest technologies for a searchable, interactive, mobile-friendly publication. The guide will be published on the chamber website, sent via email and shared by social media, which will allow your advertising to be directly linked to your company's website.

One Issue

Eighth page	\$295
Quarter page	\$495
Half page	\$695
Full page	\$995
Front Inside Cover	\$1,295
Inside Back Cover	\$1,295
Page 1	\$1,025
Back Cover	\$1,395

Digital

Foot Banners	\$995
includes a 1/2 page	
Tap to Read	\$995
includes a 1/2 page	
Front Cover Sponsor	\$1,195
includes a full page	
Skyscraper	\$1,095
includes a 1/2 page	

Mechanical Requirements:
300dpi JPEG or PNG files only
Color Profile: CMYK
(please no RGB files)

3.625" x 2.3125" - 1/8 Page
3.625 x 4.875" - 1/4 Page
7.5" x 4.875" - 1/2 Page Horiz.
3.719" x 10" - 1/2 Page Vertical
7.5" x 10" - Full Page

Ribbon Cutting @ Adv Chiropractic



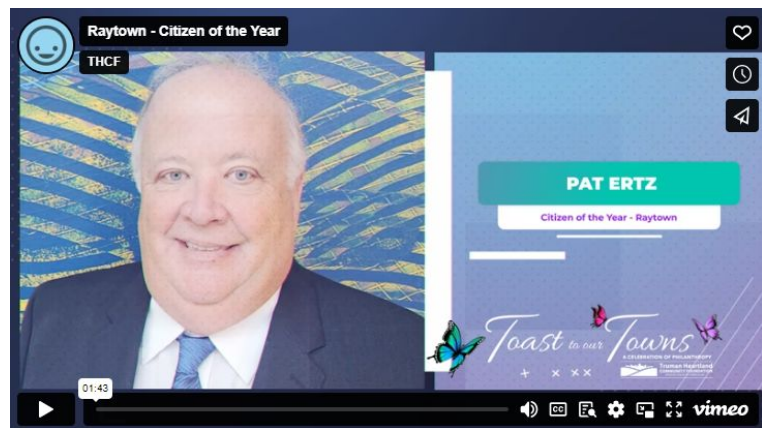
Truman Heartland Foundation Gala



From THcF.org: Pat Ertz, a dedicated resident of Raytown since 1989, has been an influential figure in his community. Following a successful career with Hy-Vee, he transitioned to managing the Jackson County Public Water Supply District #2. Pat has selflessly contributed numerous hours to public service, serving on the Board of Aldermen for eight years and even fulfilling the role of Mayor Pro-Tem. Holding volunteer appointments on various committees, such as the Raytown Finance Committee, Recycling Committee, Legislative Committee, and Park Board Governance Committee, among several others, further demonstrates his commitment to public welfare. In addition to his public service, Pat is passionate. He is passionate about giving back as a volunteer, sharing his time and talents with the Raytown Emergency Assistance Program (REAP), Raytown Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism, Raytown Rotary, and the Raytown Education Foundation.



Click to see the video of Mayor Mike McDonough's presentation at the Gala.



September Membership Luncheon



Starlight

SEPTEMBER MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON

"75 years of Starlight - what does the future hold?"

with Lindsey Rood-Clifford
President & CEO, Starlight Theatre



MEMBERS

Making news..



CAPA Announces New President and CEO Dr. Kristina Jones. Dr. Jones has been with us for more than 13 years and has been serving as our Interim President and CEO since June 2024. After a thorough 10-week search by our Executive Search Committee, they knew she was the perfect fit to lead our team.

Dr. Jones has been a key part of [CAPA's](#) growth and success over the years, especially in her previous role as Vice President of Programs. Some of her amazing accomplishments include helping us secure Healthy Families America affiliation, growing our counseling program's budget, and overseeing the shift to electronic records—just to name a few!

Mad Cakes Featured on FOX 4' s 'Great Day KC' Segment "Women Mean Business"

From [Fox4KC.com](https://fox4kc.com): Mad Cakes is a one-of-a-kind bakery nestled in Raytown, MO, where every occasion finds its perfect cake. From custom-made cakes for special events to the fun and interactive cupcake bar, along with a variety of homemade cookies, rolled ice cream, and more!

Visit OrderMadCakes.com today!





RAYTOWN MAKERS

Built, Baked, or Brewed in Raytown

Porter Furniture: Storytelling in Wood

By Michelle Williams

Stories. Everybody has one. Down through the centuries, the art of storytelling has been practiced as a way to memorialize history, to entertain, and to enlighten. In speaking with Brett Porter, owner/operator of, and builder/craftsman at, Porter Furniture, one can immediately see he appreciates a good story.

Since a young age, Porter has been around craftsmen working with wood. His father had a small woodworking hobby shop in the family home basement, and it was there Brett's hobby of crafting wood into furniture began. Fast forward a few years and Porter found himself in a new season of life, which included the need for furniture. When a friend gifted him an old barn, with his father as a mentor he put his knowledge to use and built his own furniture, finding not only a new passion, but new purpose: melding personal stories with the story of reclaimed wood.



Brett Porter, Porter Furniture Craftsman



Word spread about Porter's furniture and he soon needed a storefront. While his intent was not necessarily to open a business in his hometown of Raytown, he found a space that fit his needs on 63rd Street. Quickly outgrowing the 63rd Street space, he moved to a larger space in Raytown Plaza before taking over the former Smith Brothers Hardware location in 2020. Amidst all the turmoil of the time, Porter's business grew as people were home and decided to upgrade their furniture, using monies previously earmarked for travel and vacations. This would prove a pivotal time for Porter as he built up his brand and looked toward the future.

Continued...



On-site manufacturing at Porter Furniture, 63rd St & Raytown Tfwy

As the pandemic continued to impact the world, Brett Porter persisted, knowing “running a business is more than skill, or talent, or sales ability, but is sticking it out and doing what needs to be done to make it work.” He also began building cabinets, going beyond furniture to adapt to a larger market. While some of the cabinetry is made from reclaimed wood, his signature style, other woods are also offered. As of this time, the furniture and cabinets are about equal in sales. Porter often provides the lumber for his clients, though some have their own.

An example is the great-granddaughter who came in and wanted the table her grandfather had built (with his name and date carved into the bottom of a plank) to be repaired. Unfortunately, the repair was not possible, but Porter salvaged the plank with the grandfather’s carving and incorporated it into a new table built from other reclaimed wood.

It is here in a reflective moment Porter shares his favorite quote, “The journey is the destination.” He stresses the importance of enjoying the process itself, not just the outcome. Making a conscious effort to celebrate the little victories, taking pride in the accomplishment, and sharing the joy in and of the moment with his employees are very important to Porter. Bringing the clients stories into the process, along with the wood’s story, is of paramount importance as well. Each barn or structure was a large part of a life and held great importance; Brett seeks to honor that in everything he crafts.



So, what’s next for Porter Furniture? Currently the location is being remodeled to expand the showroom space. Porter wants to be a part of Raytown’s growth, so he is expanding his current space to fit his needs. He does not rule out a satellite storefront in the future, but right now is focused on the current space and its centralized manufacturing. Indicating the importance of being able to show people where the furniture and cabinets are built, instead of a warehouse where you lose the personal attachment, Porter once again places the focus on the individual side of the build and on the stories still to come. One of those stories might be yours, so visit Porter Furniture online or in person and let Brett know the Chamber sent you!

Welcome New Members!

Heartland Improvements, LLC

Gregory Adams

(816) 291-2801

6101 Arlington Ave

Raytown, MO 64133

heartlandga@gmail.com

<https://heartlandga.wixsite.com/heartland>



From the President:

The Raytown Chamber/BF Board of Directors approved the **Class of 2027** as presented by the Nominating Committee on September 19th. Those present at the October 23 Membership Luncheon which also includes the “Annual Meeting” will vote of the Class of 2027 which consists of:



Theresa Garza, Spire Missouri, Inc
Samuel Gahm, GahmPlay Productions
Dave Thurman, Associate Member
Wendy McDermott, Synergy One Solutions

The Board also approved the 2025 Officers:

Chair of the Board - Jourdan Price, Personal Care Dental
Chair Elect - Mackenzie Peters, Mack Curio Creations
Secretary/Treasurer - Me'shelle Bishop, Cornerstone Home Improvements
Past Chair - Robert Akins, Farmer's Insurance

Jeff Hirst, President
Raytown Area Chamber of Commerce

Chamber Renewals

- ☺ SmartCarb Fuel Systems, Inc., - Kim Dyess, 2019
- ☺ Eclipse Bar & Grill - Bob Schwaller, 2015
- sComm - Jason Curry, 2023
- Kansas City Zoo & Aquarium - Kirk Suedmeyer, Sean Putney, 2011
- MDL Technology LLC - Mark Dryer (P), TJ Bloom, 2018
- ☺ Lee's Summit Tribune - Linda Ahern, 2018
- ☺ Shepherd Center of Raytown - Rae Letterman, Brenda Riggs - 1992
- Fraternal Order of Police - Mark Wasko , Mandy McKie, Rick Inglima, Paul Brooks, 2009
- ☺ Raytown Historical Society - Charlotte Belger, 2007
- ☺ First Federal Bank of Kansas City (Raytown) - Bill Cooper, Sara Butch, 1984
- Alderman Janet Emerson, 2021

110% CLUB

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

Looking Ahead

- Nov 12** [AM Connections Networking](#)
7:30A @ Arvest Bank, Bannister Rd.
- Nov 20** [November Membership Luncheon](#)
95th Anniversary Party & "A Very Lufti's Thanksgiving!"
- Dec 3** [AM 'Christmas Connections'](#)
7:30A @ Connection Point Church
- Jan 23** [Annual Chamber Awards Luncheon](#)
11A @ Connection Point Church

CHAMBER MEMBERS, FRIENDS & FAMILY

Join Online for the Planet Fitness
Black Card® today and save 15%



- **\$0 STARTUP**
- **\$0 ANNUAL FEE**
- **NO COMMITMENT**

Use of 2,500 + Locations · Hydromassage

Tanning · Guest Privileges · and More!

www.planetfitness.com/gyms

Promo Code **EMPLOYEEBCM**

Questions? Email Wendy Cox · wcox@unitedfp.com

<http://employee-discount.unitedfp.com>

YOUR AD HERE

Interested in marketing in the monthly
Newsletter? Contact the Chamber today.

Business Card Size

- 3 months \$55.00
- Full year \$160

CITY OF
RAYTOWN

Raytown
Area
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM

THIS STREET ADOPTED BY

Name Here
Name Here

"Where the Rock Island Crosses the Three Trails"

The Chamber has partnered with City of Raytown to clean up the roads with our adopt-a-street program. This program is open to businesses, families, clubs, co-workers, and civic groups. Join us in helping to keep our streets clean. [Apply Here!](#)

Application form must be completed and approved by the Adopt-A-Street Committee (Raytown Chamber and the City of Raytown).

RQS Day
11.14.24

Please wear red, blue, or any school spirit wear in support of the Raytown Quality Schools community.

Post on social media using **#RQSDay**



Tuesday, Oct 15th @ 11:30A
Raytown Chamber Office
\$15 - Includes Lunch



Raytown Workforce Update

by Matt Pezold, MS. MA.
*University of Missouri
Workforce Development Specialist*

Join us when MU Extension Labor and Workforce Development specialist and economist Matt Pezold MS, MA provides an economic and workforce update for Raytown, Jackson County, and the greater Kansas City Region.

Topics covered will include:

- Overview of MU Extension Business and Communities
- Workforce Trends
- Economic Trends
- Job Growth
- General Industry Trends



Talk Raytown
RaytownChamber.com
/@RaytownChamber



October 2024

5909 RAYTOWN TRAFFICWAY
RAYTOWN, MO 64133-3860

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Membership Services Cmte @ Chamber - 12p	3 Ribbon Cutting @ ARC of the Ozarks - 10a	4 Tourism Cmte @ Carlito's - 11:45a	5
6	7	8 A.M. Connections @ Chamber by Adams Insurance Services - 7:30a	9	10 Board of Director's Mtg @ Chamber & Via Zoom - 8a	11	12
13	14	15 Lunch & Learn - Raytown Workforce Update @ Chamber Office - 11:30a	16 Looking Forward to 2026 @ Chamber & Via Zoom - 10a 1630 Networking @ Connection PoinT - 4:30P	17	18 Govt Relations Cmte @ Chamber & Via Zoom - 8a	19
20	21	22	23 Monthly Membership Luncheon @ RQS Wellness Ctr - 11a	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31 		

Upcoming Community Event?

Don't forget the Chamber's online FREE [Community Calendar!](#)