



Chamber Connections

2025 January Newsletter

2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Top Row: Jourdan Price, Mackenzie Peters, Me'shelle Bishop, and Robert Atkins
Middle Row: Sam Gahm, Renee Purtee, Paula Cannon, and Theresa Garza
Bottom Row: Carmen Kraus, Jason Sneddon, Zac Sweets, Wendy McDermott, Dave Thurman and Kory Brinton

2025 Corporate Sponsors



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Board of Directors

Jourdan Price - Chair
Personal Care Dental Group

Mackenzie Peters - Chair Elect
Mack Curio Creations

Me'Shelle Bishop - Secretary/Treasurer
Cornerstone Home Improvements

Robert Atkins, Past-Chair
Farmers Insurance Agency

At Large Members

Paula Cannon
Associate Member

Rene Purtee
Arvest Bank

Board Members

Kory Brinton
Brinton Electric

Theresa Garza
Spire Missouri, Inc.

Carmen Kraus
Connection Point Church

Jason Sneddon
Greater Kc Homes

Zac Sweets
Evergy

Dave Thurman
Associate Member

Wendy McDermott
Synergy One Lending

Sam Gahm
Gahmplay Video Productions

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

3

January Membership Luncheon

4

Talk Raytown - Ellie Lilly

5

Governor's Christmas Across Missouri

6

A.M. 'Christmas' Connections

8

2024 Annual Report

12

Members Making News

14

New Members, Renewals & Looking Ahead

15

January Membership Events Calendar



**RAYTOWN 2026
SOCCER SCARVES!**

**Just \$30!
For Members**

Are you Ready?

YOU ARE INVITED

2024 RAYTOWN CHAMBER CELEBRATION

BUSINESS OF THE YEAR, SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR, CHAMBER PERSON OF THE YEAR, NON-PROFIT OF THE YEAR AND THE RISING STAR AWARD.

JANUARY 23RD

DOORS OPEN 11:00 AM
LUNCHEON STARTS AT 11:30 AM
PARTY STARTS AT 12:00 PM

CONNECTION POINT CHURCH
10500 E. 350 HIGHWAY, RAYTOWN MO 64138



*NOT ACTUAL TROPHY. WE DON'T HAVE THAT KIND OF BUDGET.



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





TALK RAYTOWN



ELLIE LILLY

ZAC SWEETS



YouTube



Spotify



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](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

YOUR AD HERE

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

Business Card Size

· 3 months \$55.00

· Full year \$160



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

Christmas “All Across Missouri”

We contacted local creator and Raytown C-2 School District Administrative Assistant to Chief Communications Officer, **Cayla Chavez**, to create an ornament for **Governor Mike Parson's** Christmas Tree. This year's theme is "All Across Missouri" - an ornamental story of our state. In conjunction with the **City of Raytown** and **Mayor Mike McDonough**, the ornament was selected to be showcased on display at the State Capitol.



A.M. 'Christmas' Connections



RAYTOWN 2026 SOCCER SCARF



Members - \$30

Non-members - \$35





Raytown Area
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM

Annual Report 2024



Thank you, 2024 Corporate Sponsors!

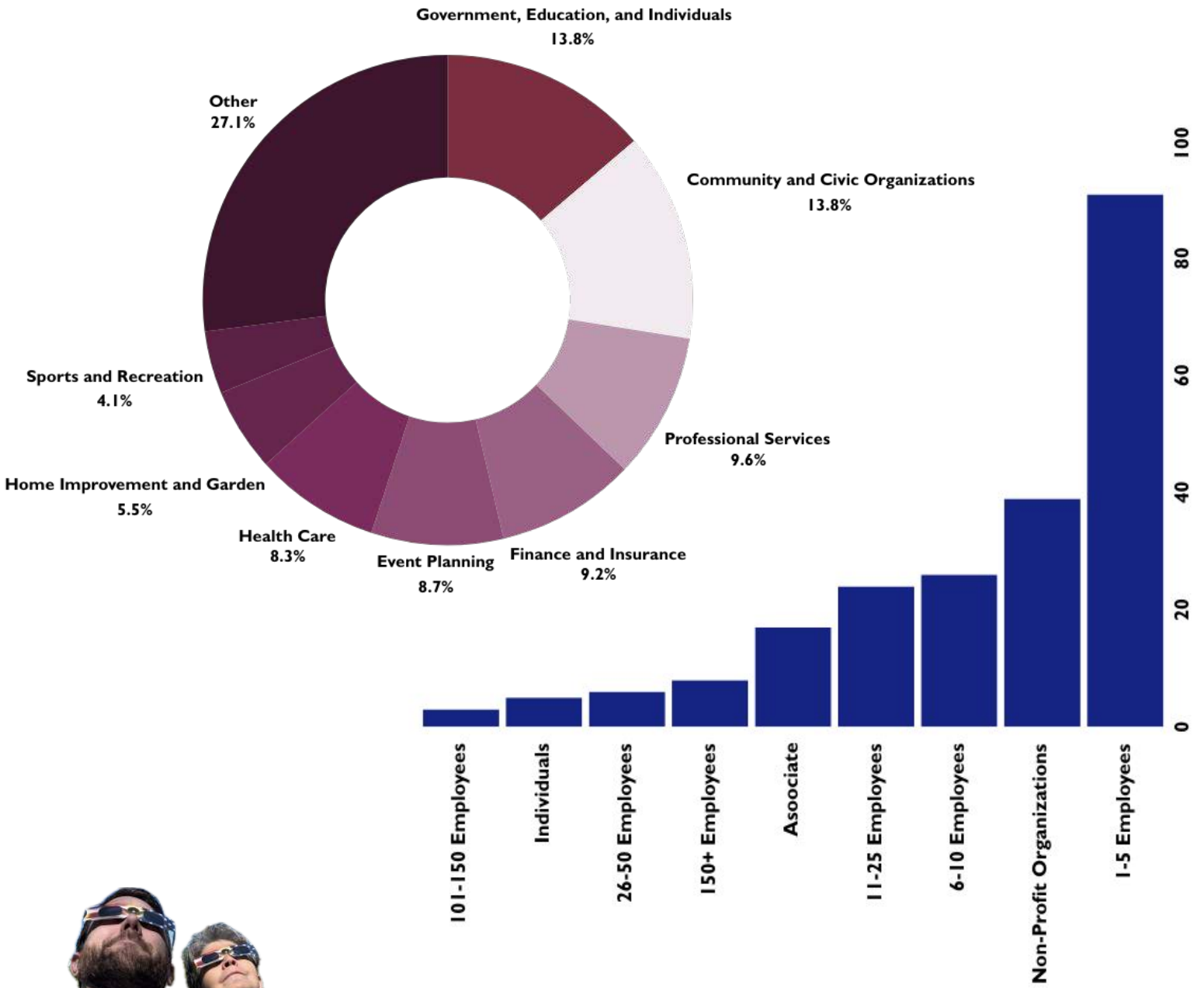
What a year it's been for the Raytown Chamber! So much to celebrate in 2024 and a tremendous amount to look forward to in 2025. The Annual Report includes a by-the-numbers recap of some amazing achievements your Chamber has made in 2024. This year we welcomed a new monthly podcast, **Talk Raytown**. Hosted by Zac Sweets, the podcast highlights interviews with intriguing individuals that make a difference in our community. **Vicki Turnbow** kicked off the year with a big Retirement party at Starlight Theatre, then returned in November for a 'Presidential Panel' at our **95th Anniversary Luncheon**. The 'Looking Towards 2026' committee has grown so large, we now offer to attend via Zoom due to space. Our discussions of preparedness, marketing opportunities, and special events is far ahead of neighboring communities. The monthly membership newsletter, **Chamber Connections**, includes a new section 'Raytown Makers' which highlights anything built, brewed, or baked in Raytown. In September, we upgraded **membership software**. The newer version of the software features a built-in payment processor, an enhanced calendar and directory with more updates will be rolled out soon. The Chamber has been working with the City of Raytown to increase the amount of streets are covered in the Adopt-A-Street program. You can now apply for a street online.



Jeff Hirst - Jeff Hirst - President

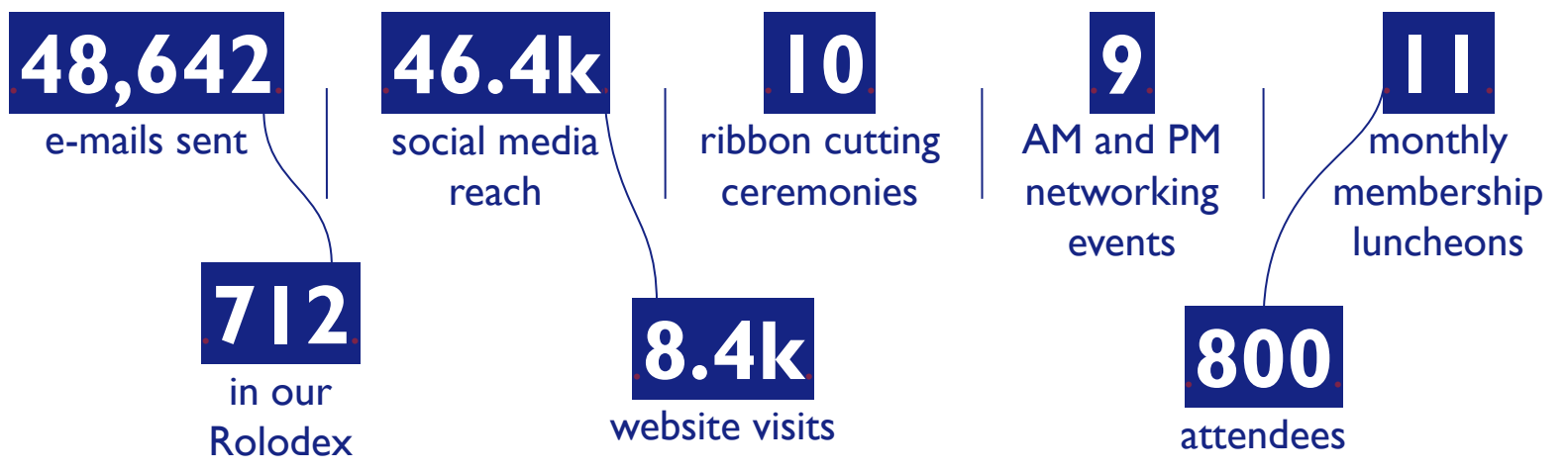
2024 Annual Report

Membership Breakdown By Category

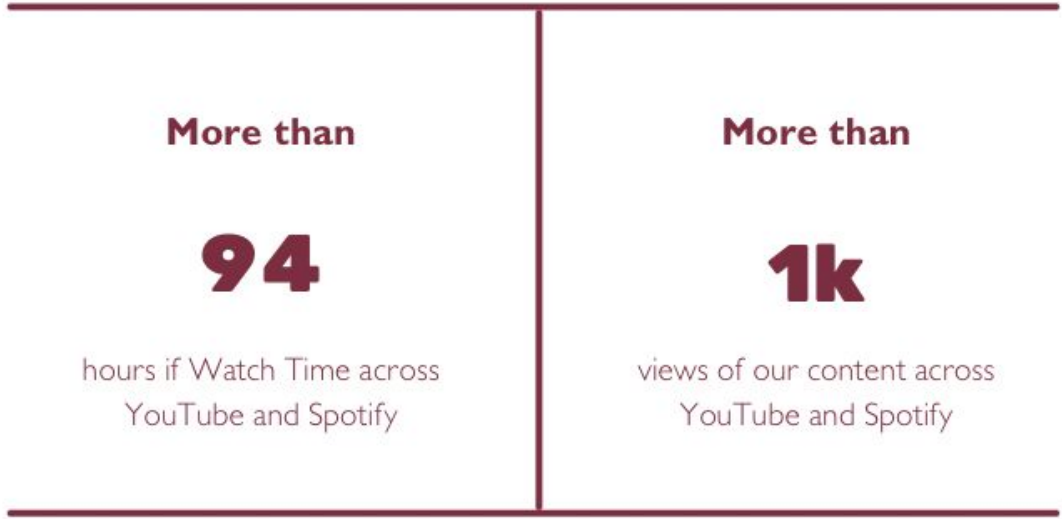


Membership Breakdown By Size

2024 Annual Report



Talk Raytown Podcast



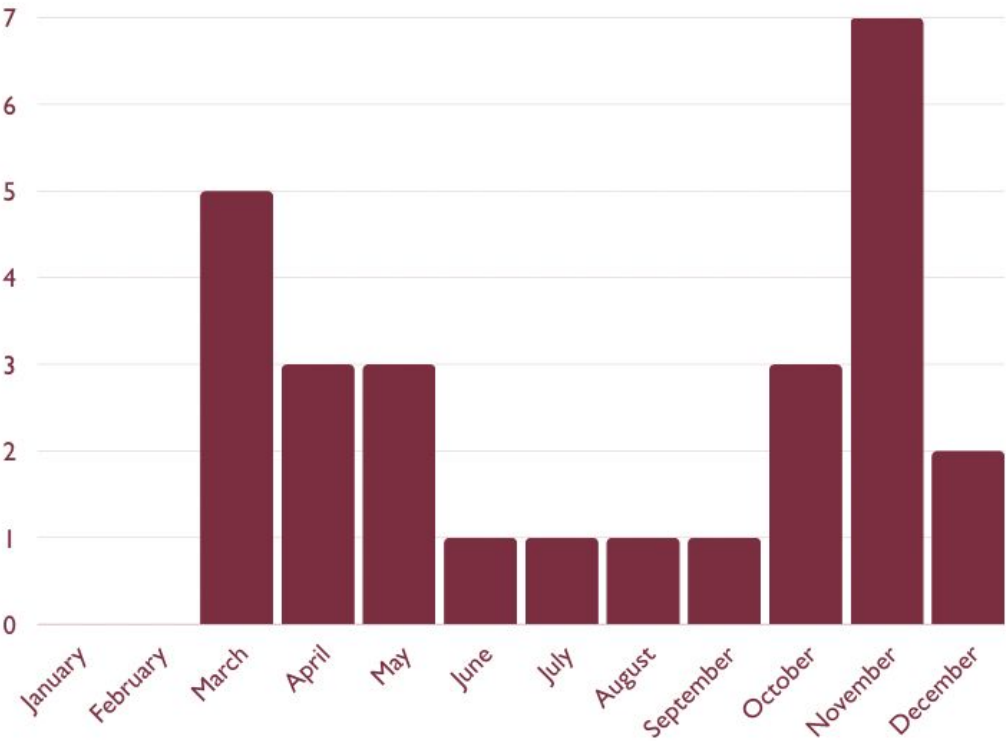
Talk Raytown is a new monthly podcast provided by the Raytown Chamber of Commerce and Tourism featuring an in-depth interview with local community stakeholders. Sponsorships for 2025 are available. Includes pre-roll advertising on YouTube and Spotify available into perpetuity.



2024 Annual Report

New Members

We added 27 new members in 2024!



\$2,345.67

in the 110% Club

360+

member
representatives

77.45%

retention rate



65 Raytown 2026

Soccer Scarves Sold!

Funds raised go to the Chamber's 2026 marketing efforts.

MEMBERS

Making news..



Congratulations to **Brian Ross**, Financial Advisor at Edward Jones Investments, for becoming a Certified Financial Planner.

A Certified Financial Planner must demonstrate expertise in financial planning, including retirement, investments, taxes, estate planning and insurance. Earners must pass a 6-hour comprehensive exam and possess professional experience to prove their ability to apply knowledge in real-world scenarios. Upon passing, CFP professionals must demonstrate their commitment to professionalism, integrity, and maintaining a fiduciary standard when working with clients.

Wendy McDermott was named one of the top producers for November for Synergy One Lending.

“I’m grateful for my amazing clients, partners, and team who make this possible. Helping families achieve their homeownership dreams is what drives me every day. Here’s to even more success ahead!”



MEMBERS

Making news..



River of Refuge Has Recipe for Success with New Teaching Kitchen

Michael Crane, the successful founder of Raytown-based Crane Brewing Co., is one volunteer interested in conducting cooking classes next year for River of Refuge families.

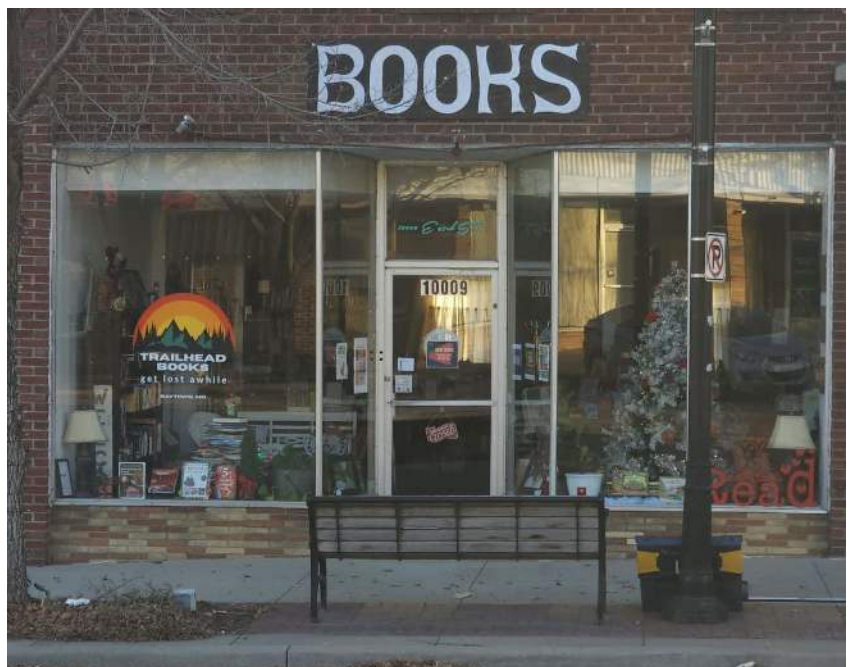
River of Refuge Executive Director **Pam Seymour** said Crane is an excellent baker.

She is excited for him to teach parents how to make dishes like homemade pancakes and bread. Crane can also give lessons on basic processes like slicing, dicing, and grating.

“I love that he's interested not only in the teaching classes but in the organization, and what we're about, and what we do with these families,” Seymour said.

Trailhead Books unveils new custom-made sign.

“It was a labor of kindness by **Bruce Roggy**... he has become a regular at Trailhead and wants to be a part of its success!” remarked **Angie Land**, Owner. “I had the basic idea of what I wanted for the sign and he was able to quickly bring it to life! I think it fits perfectly in that spot and contributes to the overall vibe of relaxed and inviting.”



Welcome New Members!

A Clean Edge Salon & Barber

Charles Brown
(816) 278-0034
10010 E 63rd St

Raytown MO 64133

Browncharliecablj@yahoo.com

BEAUTY SALON/COSMETICS

Slim Charlie's Fitness

Charles Brown
(816) 278-0034
10005 E 63rd St

Raytown, MO 64133

Slimcharliefitness@Gmail.com

FITNESS

Playtime KC

Betty Haynes
(816) 768-2068

6226 Raytown Trafficway

Raytown, MO 64133

<http://www.playtimekc.com>

info@playtimekc.com

ENTERTAINMENT/EVENT PLANNING

Looking Ahead

**Feb
27** [Annual State of the City Address](#)
IIA @ Connection Point Church

**Mar
26** [March Monthly Membership Luncheon](#)
IIA @ Raytown Christian Church



**New branding, same
great service!**

8216 Westridge Rd.
Raytown, MO. 64138
816-203-2053

Mention this ad for \$10 off any oil change
or service over \$100!

Valid thru 06/01/25

SUNNY PURE HONEY



KANSAS CITY'S LOCAL HONEY

SunnyPureHoney.com



SunnyPureHoney@gmail.com

Chamber Renewals

- ☺ Big Brothers Big Sisters KC - Anna Bazan-Munguia, 2021
- Hope Network of Raytown - Jacque Nordhus, 2008
- ☺ Commerce bank-Raytown, Elizabeth Ramirez, 1989
- ☺ Hairabella Salon - Amanda Guenther, 2023
- ☺ Blue Ridge Bank & Trust - Bill Esry, Amanda Plachte, 1989
- Comcast - Tom Krewson, 1981
- REAP - Michael Watson, Whitney Dantzler, 1997
- Porter Furniture - Brett Porter, 2021
- Associate Member - Vicki Turnbow, 2012
- ☺ United Consumers Credit Union - Nancy Davis, Sonia Nizami, Paul LeVota, 2003
- McIntosh Heating & Cooling - Jeff Man, 1993
- ☺ Southeast Enterprises - Nate Kaptana, Lauren Hall, Javier Pedrosa, Shae Verse, 1995
- CarStar of Raytown - Ron Glenn, 1999
- Edward Jones - George Koepp, Julie Buckner, Malinda McKinney, 2017
- Associate Member - Clarice Titus, 2003
- ☺ Aviation Institute of Maintenance - Adrian Rothrock, Karla Jones, 2009

110% CLUB





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



January 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 Chamber Office Closed 	2 Chamber Office Closed	3 Chamber Office Closed	4
5	6 Ribbon Cutting - Raytown South High School Performing Arts Center 	7	8	9 Board of Director's Mtg @ Chamber Office & Zoom - 8a 	10	11
12	13	14	15 Looking Towards 2026 Cmte @ Chamber Office & Zoom - 10a 	16	17	18
19	20 	21	22	23 January Chamber Awards Luncheon @ Connection Point Church 	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Upcoming Community Event?

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