



Chamber Connections

2026 January Newsletter



2026 Corporate Sponsors



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Dr. Ryan Crider, Liaison
Metropolitan Community College - Longview

Shana Kelly, Liaison
City of Raytown

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YOU ARE INVITED

2025 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 22ND

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!



Kent Friend

Employee Benefits and Property & Casualty Consultant

kfriend@bukaty.com

P: 913.777.7535

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- Online reporting and enrollment services
- Onsite open enrollment





TALK RAYTOWN

CHRISTY SEWING

ZAC SWEETS



YouTube



Spotify



**Knights of
Columbus®**

NEED A RENTAL HALL?

PARTIES ~ DANCES ~ RECEPTIONS ~ MEETINGS

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

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[HTTP://WWW.PARTYPOP.COM/VENDOR/4047872](http://WWW.PARTYPOP.COM/VENDOR/4047872)

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Interested in marketing in the monthly
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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

RAYTOWN 2026 SOCCER SCARF



Members - \$30

Non-members - \$35





KC GAME PLAN

SMALL BUSINESS. GLOBAL STAGE.
BIG OPPORTUNITY.



PROJECTED TRAVEL PROFILE

FWC VISITOR PROFILE (US REGION)*

54%

International visitors

AGES

16-29 **32%**

30-49 **46%**

50-69 **22%**

Visitors owning a
credit or debit card

68%

41%

of International visitors speak English

Male

63%

Average international visitor
stay in US

9.7 days

75%

Attend FIFA Fan
Festival

2.3

Matches
attended per
individual

*Includes non-ticket holders.

FIFA FWC26 estimations based on historical data: FWC22 Qatar, FWWC23 AUS/NZ, MLS, Nielsen Fan Profiles, US/MEX/CAN population demographics, and USITA ; *Outside of a 50-mile radius of the host city



Blue Ridge Boulevard Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) & Transit Center Study

Transit Survey

The Kansas City Area Transportation Authority (KCATA) is beginning to develop the **Blue Ridge Boulevard (TOD) and Transit Center Study**. It will identify transit hubs, amenities, connections, and more within the Blue Ridge Boulevard Corridor area. Please follow the QR code below to a survey to help KCATA identify where transit hubs should be located and include, important destinations, and other information that will help strengthen service use and accessibility.

Comment in the way most convenient for you. Options include:

- Visiting www.publicinput.com/blueridgeblvd
- Texting “blueridgetod” to 73224.

Contact Us

AJ Farris

Planning / Scheduling Manager

KCATA

855-925-2801

Project Code: 12046

blueridgeblvd@publicinput.com



SCAN ME



AMEX SHOP SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Amex Shop Small Grants Program, in partnership with American Express®, will fund more than 500 grants of \$20,000 each, empowering small businesses to grow, innovate, and support their local communities. The program was initially launched with a \$5 million contribution, and as a result of its giving pledge for eligible transactions made on Small Business Saturday®, American Express will now contribute an additional \$5.1 million to the program – totaling over \$10 million in grants.

The Amex Shop Small Grants Program reflects the shared commitment of American Express and Main Street America to champion small businesses that strengthen communities and help local economies thrive.

Applications will be open from Small Business Saturday, November 29, 2025, to **Friday, January 16, 2026** at 11:59 CT.



How Would Your Small Business Use \$5,000?



Your Business Matters

Small businesses keep our communities alive and vibrant.

They lead job creation in the US, significantly contribute to the economy, are continuously at the helm of innovation, and contribute to shaping the unique culture and personality of neighborhoods.

It's safe to say, successful small businesses and healthy communities go hand in hand.

And if you're a small business owner making a difference, we want to support your good work.



That's why every quarter we award a \$5,000 grant to an entrepreneur who is having a positive impact in an underrepresented community.

[Apply Now >](#)

Program Eligibility

- 01** Your business must have a demonstrated impact on its community, such as creating new jobs, innovating new products, or making products and services more accessible.
- 02** We strongly prefer businesses operating for at least 1 year.
- 03** Your business must be generating revenue prior to your application for a grant.
- 04** We strongly prefer businesses directly impacting high-need ZIP codes or LMI census tracts.
- 05** The business must be formed under United States law and operating within the United States.


SMALL BUSINESS HERO PROGRAM

 quickbooks +  mailchimp

Nominate your small business hero for a \$20,000 grant

Celebrate a small business in your community. Nominate a small business who has shown courage, perseverance and integrity.

[Nominate now](#)



Support small businesses that make an impact

Nominate a business that's making a difference in your community and they could win a \$20,000 grant—plus exclusive resources to boost their business growth. Check out [winners](#).

[Submit a nomination](#)

The 2026 AARP Community Challenge Is On!

Application Deadline: March 4



The AARP Community Challenge grant program is part of the nationwide AARP Livable Communities initiative that helps communities make immediate improvements and jump-start long-term progress in support of residents of all ages.

Since its debut in 2017, the AARP Community Challenge has invested \$24.3 million in 2,100 livability projects, with a focus on meeting the needs of adults age 50 or older, in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Washington, D.C.



Eligibility

The program is open to IRS-recognized nonprofit organizations — such as those with the designations 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4) and 501(c)(6) — as well as to local government entities

Grants will not be provided to individuals or for-profit companies

AARP evaluates each project based on its consistency with the AARP mission to serve the needs of people 50-plus

While project types and priorities can vary by year, AARP Community Challenge grants are typically used to support:

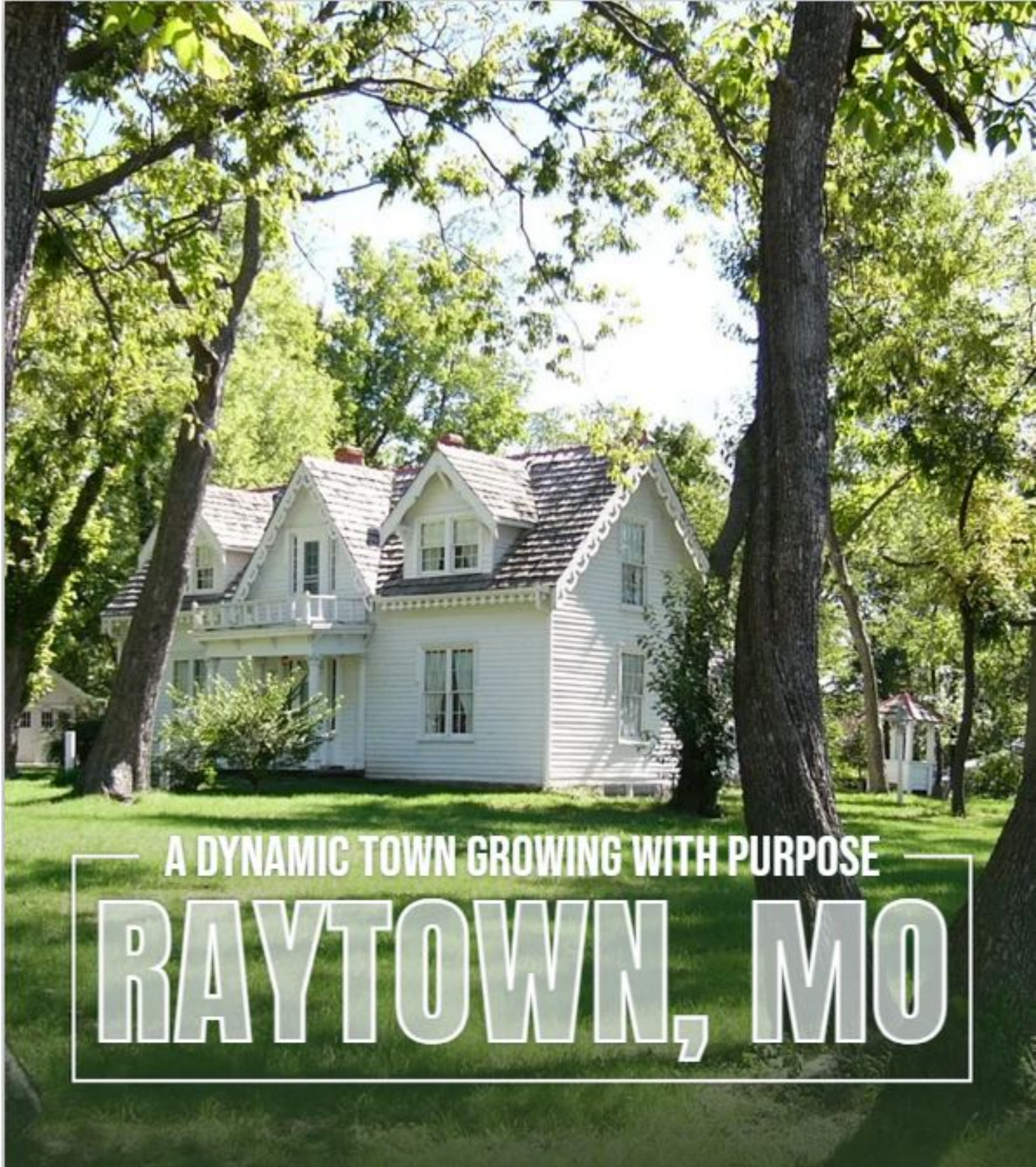
Permanent physical improvements in the community, Temporary demonstrations that lead to long-term change, New, innovative programming pilots or services

Open House & Ribbon Cutting Ceremony @ Rice-Tremonti



Mix & Mingle After Hours @ Clark's Appliances





A DYNAMIC TOWN GROWING WITH PURPOSE

RAYTOWN, MO

Co-Hosted by:



EASTERN JACKSON COUNTY

DAY AT THE CAPITOL

Tuesday, February 24th, 2026 | 10 AM - 5 PM

Jefferson City, MO

\$30
per person

- Hear from key leaders in Jefferson City
- Meet with legislators
- Lunch is provided
- Attendees are responsible for their own transportation.

Register with your respective Chamber



Talk Raytown - Spotify #Wrapped



Zac Sweets, Host

Talk Raytown
WITH THE RAYTOWN CHAMBER!
www.raytownchamber.com
Video Available at:
[@RaytownChamber](https://www.instagram.com/RaytownChamber)

Talk Raytown

Listening time

↑ 781%

Followers

↑ 125%

Top country

US



WRAPPED

2025 growth

↑ 150%
Total audience

↑ 300%
Total new audience

↑ 781%
Listening time

WRAPPED



Produced by [GahmPlay Video Productions](#)

Welcome New Members!

Guided Choice Insurance



A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE AND DO BUSINESS!



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

5909 Raytown Trafficway, Raytown, MO 64133-3860
816-353-8500 | RaytownChamber.com

Looking Forward to Lunch!

- Jan 22** [January Chamber Celebration](#)
IIA @ Connection Point Church
- Feb 26** [State of the City Address](#)
IIA @ Connection Point Church
- Mar 25** [Phil LeVota - Jackson County Executive](#)
IIA @ RSECC

Chamber Renewals

- Alpine Breeze - Micah Davis, Susan Whitaker, 2024
Raytown Youth Baseball Softball Assoc - David Patterson, 2023
- Hope Network of Raytown - Jacque Nordhus, 2008
Edward Jones - George Koepp, Malinda McKinney, Julie Buckner, 2017
- ☺ Blue Ridge Bank and Trust Co - Bill Esry, Amanda Plachte, Nicole Putnam, 1989
City of Raytown Alderwoman - Diane Krizek
☺ Carstar of Raytown - Ron Glenn, 1999
☺ United Consumers Credit Union - Nancy Davis, Paul LeVota, Terence Murphy, Sonia Nizami, 2003
☺ Big Brothers Big Sisters KC - Anna Bazan-Munguia, Sean Mitchell, Milca Aguirre, 2021
State Rep. District 28 - Donna Barnes, 2016
McIntosh Heating & Cooling - Jeff Mann, 1993
☺ Southeast Enterprises, Inc. - Nate Kaptena, 1995

110% CLUB

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



January 2026

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	3
4	5	6	7	8 Board of Director's Mtg - 8a 	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16 Govt Relations Committee - 8a	17
18	19  MLK Day	20	21	22 Annual Chamber Celebration Luncheon @ Connection Point Church - 11a 	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Upcoming Community Event?

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