

# Ava Area CHAMBER of COMMERCE Newsletter

September 2020

Ava Area Chamber of Commerce



## What's Happening

**9/8** Chamber Luncheon  
12PM at Set Free  
Ministries (pg. 2)

**9/14** Chamber Board  
Meeting 5PM

### Office Staff

Judy Shields, Director  
Nina Carter, Office Assistant  
Bill Jones, Office Support

### 2020 Chamber Board

#### Members

**President:** Anita Madche

**VP:** Richard Sturgeon

**Secretary:** Gail Huffman

**Treasurer:** Betty Ridenour

Bart Ellison, Teresa Nash  
Kenny Fleetwood, Amy Porter  
Danny Letsinger, Glenda Little  
Brandi Stanifer, Bob Sorensen  
Caryl Stillings, Sheldon Shaver  
Richard Salgado

### Chamber Board Meetings

are held on the second Monday  
of each month. To be a guest or  
add an item to the agenda,  
contact the Chamber office.

### Chamber Luncheons

are held on the second Tuesday  
of each month at 12:00 and are  
complimentary to members.  
Contact the office for infor-  
mation on hosting a Luncheon.

### Economic Development

Meetings held on the first  
Monday of each month at 5:30.

### Contact Us

810 Collins Avenue  
PO Box 1103 Ava, MO 65608  
417-683-4594  
director@avachamber.org

## Fall City-Wide Yard Sale October 1st-3rd



The Ava Fall City-Wide Yard Sale will be held October 1st-3rd. For just \$14/Chamber member and \$16/non-member, the Chamber will advertise your sale to the Ava community and surrounding towns and will print your sale location on 500 copies of the Ava City-Wide Yard Sale Map! Live outside city limits? No problem. Yard sale spaces are also available at a high-traffic area in town.

Chamber business members can also advertise their corresponding sidewalk sale for free! So, start sorting and tagging those unwanted items that will bring you some extra cash! Forms available at the Chamber office and City Utilities. Deadline to register is September 28th at 5pm.

Welcome  
New  
Chamber  
Members

Ava  
Chamber  
Continues  
to Grow!

The Ava Chamber of Commerce would like to extend a warm "welcome" to our newest members, *Twisted Wrench Garage, Edge Business & Realty Advisory Group, and Safe Surroundings*. The addition of these new members brings the Chamber to 224 members!

It is through the partnership and active participation of its members that the Chamber is able to accomplish great things for the Ava and its business community.

September  
19th, 2020



### Ozark's Farm Animal Workshop

sponsored by the **Animal Clinic of Ava** Saturday September 19th from 8AM-5:30PM at Cold Creek Cowboy Church on N Hwy 5. Workshops, Demonstrations, Food, Vendors, and Door Prizes all day! Come have some hands-on fun while learning about Cattle, Pigs and Poultry, Bees, Alpaca, and Sheep and everything in-between! Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$15 for youth, and kids 12 and under are free! See a detailed schedule and more information on the Animal Clinic of Ava Facebook page or call (417) 683-6830.



## Missouri SBDC at MSU Partners with Ozarks Small Business Incubator (OzSBI) to Expand Services to Small Businesses

The Ozarks Small Business Incubator (OzSBI), located in West Plains, Missouri, serves businesses in our 7-county region and is a community of support for entrepreneurs and business owners at all stages in their business development. OzSBI provides business counseling with a network of experienced mentors, training programs to help businesses grow, assistance with business plan development, microloans, professional office space for lease and coworking space.

"We are very excited about our partnership with the Missouri SBDC at MSU," OzSBI Executive Director Heather Fisher said. "Our partnership will allow us to extend our assistance and help more small business owners and entrepreneurs in the region in a collective effort."

For more information visit: <https://ozsbi.com/>. OzSBI will work closely with the MO SBDC center at MSU West Plains and that center's coordinator, Darrell Hampsten.

<https://wp.missouristate.edu/ucp/sbdc.htm>

### U.S. Small Business Administration



**Your Small Business Resource**

## Free Programs Essential to New and Established Businesses

*The Small Business Administration (SBA)* offers business owners and entrepreneurs thorough information and helpful tips on starting, growing, and managing a business. Some of programs and services offered through SBA are:

- o Free mentoring and information on starting a business through the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE).
- o Financial assistance for new or existing businesses through guaranteed loans made by area bank and non-bank lenders.
- o Free consulting services through the network of Small Business Development Centers.
- o Assistance to businesses owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals through the Minority Enterprise Development Program.
- o Women's Business Ownership Representatives are available to advise women business owners.

Special loan programs are available for businesses involved in international trade and for credit-worthy veterans.

Visit their website at [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov).

*The Missouri Small Business Development Program* is a statewide network which helps businesses succeed in every stage from concept to startup, growth to renewal, and helps them mature to succession through a variety of free or low-cost programs.

Visit their website at [www.missouribusiness.net](http://www.missouribusiness.net).

For more information on starting or growing your business, explore the free information, how-to(s), and business forms on the above websites or visit the Ozarks Small Business Incubator website at [www.ozsbi.com](http://www.ozsbi.com).



**Ribbon Cutting**

**September 15th @12PM**

for  
**Safe Surroundings**

At the Ava Chamber Office

## Chamber Member News

Rose Zella Myers with **Missouri Real Estate of the Ozarks** says "It's a Sellers Market! Let's talk, anytime. 417-683-0826."

**Town & Country Bank in Ava** is having a Peanut Butter & Jelly Drive during the month of September. Why Donate PB&J? Food pantries never have enough for the families they serve.

Peanut Butter is a high protein food that packs a lot of goodness in a simple form that even a child can use. Pair it with jelly and you have a delicious duo.

You can help in our community by donating PB&J in plastic jars (they are also in need of almond and cashew butters). Donations accepted during the month of September at Town & Country Bank. Thank you.

**Trinity Lutheran Church** is having their annual Rummage Sale on September 3rd and 4th from 8am to 4pm, at the American Legion Hall. Lots of great bargains!

**Fall Festival at Rockbridge** October 17th starting 3-7pm. Live music, corral rides, kids' fishing, lawn games, campfire with cowboy stories, and more! Rainout date is October 24th. For vendor applications, email Kristi at mod1@rockbridgemo.com. See you there!

## September Chamber *Luncheon*

**Tuesday, Sept. 8th at Noon**

Hosted by:

**Set Free Ministries**

212 N. Jefferson Street - Ava  
(former O'Reilly's building)

### Upcoming Luncheons

*October* - DOCO Sheltered Workshop

*November* - Ava Lions Club

**Ava Saddle Club** will host the St. Jude Benefit Auction and Haunted Trail Challenge September 19th beginning at 5pm. Costume contest for horse and rider. Pulled pork sandwiches and homemade pies in the cookshack. Live auction starts at 6:30pm. Check out the auction items on the Ava Saddle Club Facebook page. Contact Michell King at 683-8296 for more information. Everyone welcome! They will also have sorting practice at 7 pm on Sept 4th & 28th at the saddle club arena.

For all of you holiday planners!

The *Ava Christmas Parade* will be Saturday, December 12, with the theme "Winter Wonderland".



## 62nd Annual Missouri Fox Trotting Horse Show & Celebration September 6th-12th

Each September, the Missouri Fox Trotting Horse Breed Association (MFTHBA) hosts its annual World Show and Celebration in Ava, MO. This event features competitors from around the world in a variety of competitions. In addition, breed enthusiasts attend the event to participate in the organized trail rides, educational seminars, and other events held in conjunction with the show.

The largest Missouri Fox Trotter show of the year will begin on September 6th. There will be classes in the versatility arena in the mornings during the week. Every evening at 6:00 PM the performance classes begin in the main arena. The show concludes with the World Grand Championships at 6:00 PM on Saturday, September 12th. Everyone is welcome to attend. Find a complete schedule of events at [www.mfthba.com](http://www.mfthba.com).

## **"Shop local", "Shop at home", "Support local businesses..."**

These are slogans we see and hear often. But do we really think about what they're saying?



Now more than ever we need to come together as a community and support what we love about our hometown of Ava, Missouri. It's so important for us to support each other and our local businesses. Local businesses are a crucial cornerstone of Ava's economic stability.

While it's true that our local businesses provide for us services and products, they also provide tax dollars to our city, helping our city to take care of the infrastructure of our community. We all benefit from that. Our local businesses also provide us with jobs. Without them, we would have crippling unemployment and financial devastation in our county. When folks circulate money back into our community it strengthens its growth and stability so that we can continue to live in this wonderful place that we love. A place where we have beautiful surroundings and lots of open land and fresh air. A place where our city and county leadership believe that we should be free to govern ourselves. A place where family values, faith, and kindness are important.

Our wonderful community is full of friends and neighbors who will come to our aid when we need help and encouragement. We have wonderful schools and caring and compassionate teachers who pour into the lives of their students and their students' families. They genuinely care because they live here, and they know us.

We can't afford to take for granted that things will be as they are in our town forever, without any effort or participation on our part. We must realize that we have this wonderful community to live in because of the people who came before us, who worked hard and sacrificed much to give us what we have today. And, there are countless people, all of us included, who have been doing the same all these years. So, let's be sure to protect what we have so it doesn't slowly slip through our fingers. Let's be determined to give back and invest in our wonderful community, so that we ensure that our amazing town prospers and grows and is able to weather any storm that comes its way.

Through the decades since its founding, Ava has been through wars, economic depression, and countless personal tragedies. But through them all, our community has always banded together and has come through even stronger. That's who we are. That's what we do.

So when you hear "shop local, shop at home, support local businesses, invest in your hometown..." what it's really saying is, protect what you love about your community... protect the reason you live here... the reason you came here... the reason you stay here.

We are blessed to call Ava Missouri/Douglas County our home. Together, we can ensure its successful future for many generations to come.

Judy Shields

Ava Chamber Director