

# Ava Area CHAMBER of COMMERCE Newsletter

May 2021



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## What's Happening

**5/10** Chamber Board  
Meeting @ 5pm

**5/11** Chamber Luncheon  
on the Square (see pg. 4)

### 2021 Chamber Officers

**President:** Anita Madche

**V P:** Richard Sturgeon

**Secretary:** Gail Huffman

**Treasurer:** Betty Ridenour

### 2021 Board Members

Bart Ellison, Patty Nelson  
Bob Sellers, Amy Porter,  
Danny Letsinger, Glenda Little  
Bob Sorensen, Wes Davis,  
Dick Salgado

### Office Staff

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

### 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 each month.

### Contact Us

810 Collins Avenue  
PO Box 1103 Ava, MO 65608  
417-683-4594  
[director@avachamber.org](mailto:director@avachamber.org)



*The Ava Chamber of Commerce  
would like to*

# Welcome

*Patty Nelson*



*as the newest member of the  
Chamber's Board of  
Directors. Patty is the Ava  
Middle School Principal. We are  
happy to have her join us!*

## Ava CHAMBER of COMMERCE Membership Banquet

Dinner - Silent Auction  
Awards - Fun Contests

Live Music by  
**Dan & Betsy Herrell  
& Jam Dandy Band**



### Plan to Join us at the Chamber's Annual Membership Banquet!

The Ava Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual Membership and Awards Banquet on Saturday, May 22nd at 6PM. This year's theme is "Ava Pride". Plan to dress in your Ava Pride best and join us for a night of fun! The highlight of the banquet will be announcing the winners of the John Dickison Community Volunteer Award and Will McFarlin Community Youth Volunteer Award, in recognition of those individuals dedicated to making our community a better place.

Chamber Members are invited to sponsor a table for the banquet for just \$25, decorating it to promote and showcase their business or organization. For more information, to donate a silent auction item, or to reserve your table today, contact Judy at the Chamber office (417) 683-4594 or [director@avachamber.org](mailto:director@avachamber.org).

# Douglas County Festivals!

**Discover the Ozarks Festival will be held in Douglas County June 18th - 20th.**

Created in 2018, Discover the Ozarks started off as part of the '2500 Miles of Arts & Culture' that invited



Missouri Counties to participate in showing what their area offered locals & visitors. A group of volunteers got together wanting to include the City of Ava and Douglas County in the 2500 miles program.

When the state-wide program didn't work out, our Douglas County event folks worked even harder to sustain and grow ours. Our local festival's name was changed in 2019 to Discover the Ozarks (DTO) and continues stronger than ever!

We are excited to announce that the fourth annual Discover the Ozarks Festival is on this year! During Father's Day

weekend in June, the City of Ava and Douglas County is inviting visitors & locals to participate in a sampling of what this Ozarks Area of Douglas County offers. Whether you are interested in outdoor or indoor activities, historical adventures, or if Ozark culture is your thing, come join the adventure!

Throughout the three-day Festival there will be plenty of opportunity to explore, create fun memories, participate in indoor & outdoor activities, eat food and shop at the many stores!

Discover the Ozarks Brochures with more details will be available for pick up at the Ava Chamber Office and at local businesses.

Watch for updates on our Facebook page. DTO's website, [www.discovertheoazarks.org](http://www.discovertheoazarks.org), will be live very soon!

**Pioneer Heritage Festival of the Ozarks is slated for Fri & Sat, October 1-2, 2021, at the Missouri Fox**



Trotting Horse Breed Association Show Grounds on Highway 5, three miles north of Ava! PHFO was created to preserve and celebrate the culture and history of the Ozarks through preserving traditional skills and acknowledging local artisans.

- PHFO has space available for Artisans who would like to demonstrate their skills, share their expertise, and perhaps sell their

handmade items. There is no entry fee for Artisans.

- PHFO would welcome any volunteers who would like to help with the Festival
- Expenses for the Festival are covered through support from our generous community through sponsorships, advertising and attendee donations. We welcome participation!!

For information: FaceBook – Pioneer Heritage Festival of the Ozarks, or [www.heritage417.com](http://www.heritage417.com), or 417-543-3401.

**Ava**  
**City-Wide**  
**Yard Sale**  
**June 3rd-5th**



Register by June 1st @ 5pm.

Let us do the Advertising for you!

**Get YOUR Sale on the City-Wide Yard Sale Map!**

**\$16.00 / Chamber Members \$14.00**

*\$2.00 refunded upon return of yard sign.*

Registration forms available at the Chamber office & City Hall.

Sponsored by the Ava Area Chamber of Commerce  
[info@avachamber.org](mailto:info@avachamber.org) ~ 417-683-4594

Spaces available to hold your sale in town.



# Ribbon Cuttings!



Photo credit Ben Coffman, Douglas County Herald

*Pictured L to R for Touch of Healing: Lori Gamroth, Judy Shields, Dick Salgado, Bob Sorensen, James Kelly, owner/operator Christina Chiffo, Marcia Salgado, David Norman, Richard Sturgeon, and Darlene Sorensen*

The Ava Area Chamber of Commerce welcomed its newest members, Touch of Healing Wellness Center (above) and Sims Consulting (below) with ribbon cuttings in April.



Photo credit Ben Coffman, Douglas County Herald

*Pictured L to R for Sims Consulting: Judy Shields, Brad Lohuis, (Sims Consulting representative) Tim Voragen, Richard Sturgeon, and Bob Sellers*



# Chamber Member Spotlight



Let's  
Worship  
Together

## Ava Assembly of God

683-4217 • [www.avaag.org](http://www.avaag.org)

Hwy 5 South and SW 4th Ave, Ava, MO

Pastor: Buddy Boyd • [pastorbuddy@avaag.org](mailto:pastorbuddy@avaag.org)

### Service Schedule

Sundays

Worship Services

9AM and 11AM

Children's Classes at both services.

Wednesdays 7:00pm

Adults - Youth - Kids

Bus Service Available

a place to...  
Find Him,  
Know Him,  
Serve Him

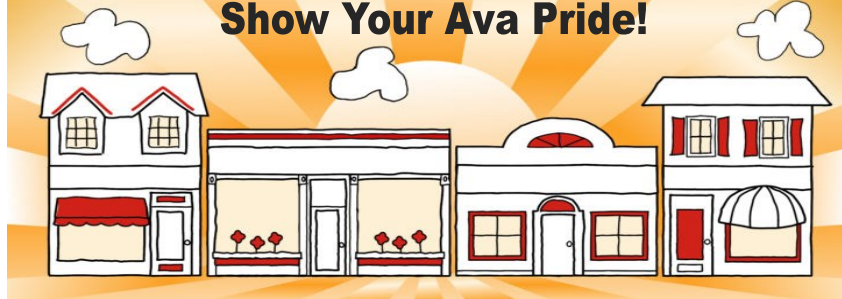


## The Chamber Continues to Grow!

The Chamber welcomes two new members during the past month! This makes 7 new memberships since January, with 3 ribbon cuttings held in March and April alone. The Chamber accomplishes great things through the partnership and active participation of its members, while pursuing the common goal of promoting, sustaining, and improving the Ava community.

## Small Business Week

Support local business.  
Show Your Ava Pride!



National Small Business Week is May 2nd-May 8th

This year, Small Business Week is celebrated from May 2nd-May 8th. *YOU can show your support and appreciation for our local Ava businesses by shopping locally in our community.*

May  
**Chamber**  
*Luncheon*

May 11th  
11:30-1:00

The Ava Chamber of Commerce  
on the Ava Square

(Ava Lions Club building if raining)

Upcoming Luncheons

June - Heart of the Ozarks & Ava Place

Join us in Celebrating our  
**AVA PRIDE!**

May 22, 2021 @ 6pm

Ava Middle School Cafeteria



Ava  
CHAMBER of  
COMMERCE  
**Membership  
Banquet**

Dinner - Silent Auction  
Awards - Fun Contests

Live Music by  
**Dan & Betsy Herrell  
& Jam Dandy Band**

Be Sure to dress in your "Ava Pride" best!

Main Entrée Provided. Please bring your favorite Side-dish, Casserole, or Dessert to share!

## Chamber Member News

**The Douglas County Friends of the Library** will have a Book Sale Thursday-Saturday, May 6-8 in the Douglas County Public Library conference room during regular library hours, Mon-Friday 9am-5pm, and Saturday 9am-12 noon. Thursday first choice: hardbacks \$1.00, large paperbacks \$.50, small paperbacks \$.25. Friday half price day, and Saturday \$3.00 Bag day.

**Ava United Methodist Church** is having a Rummage Sale May 12-14 (Wed-Fri) 7 AM - 5 PM at the church located just off Hwy 5 at 945 W Washington Ave. Come on out and find some great deals on just about anything!

**Teen Harvest offers Divine Design Family Retreats & Family Reconciliation Retreats** What if 3 days could: Change your family forever? Take the fight out of family life? Help you raise loyal children? Improve your marriage significantly?

We know that you want to have a happy family, and a peaceful home. We believe that the Bible teaches us how to live and thrive as a Family Unit.

Divine design and Family Reconciliation Retreats are here to do just that! Come to the ranch for relaxation in the beautiful Ozarks mountains with a time of learning how to do family God's way in a mixed-up, ever-changing world.

If you are having family issues of any kind that are overwhelming, we are here to help. Contact us at 683-1080. Next Retreat dates are July 8-10 and August 12-14.

**Ozark Action's** Work Development Center has an On the Job Training Program to benefit employers and their workers. The advantage to employers is that they will pay up to 50% of a new hire's wages for a specific amount of time (depending on the job). So, if an employer knows they are going to hire someone anyway, Ozark Action could help with the salary for a while. The employer would need to apply and provide company verification. The employee would need to qualify for our program by either being low income, a Veteran, or have been on unemployment at some point. Any businesses/employers who might be interested can call Teresa Bruffett Workforce Development Case Manager at 417-204-1405 for more information.



### New Chamber Members

## Ava Automation

Developing manual/CNC machining solutions for small shop and hobbyist engineers

(417) 543-4318

## Nanny & Papa Bargains

Buying and selling liquidation items and pallets for public resale

(417) 894-1889

**KKOZ Radio's Bids-For-Bargains** is underway and will continue each Friday and Saturday through May! Tune into 91.2 FM, 1430 AM, or kkoz.com at 9:30am each week, right after Trading Post, to bid on great deals from local businesses, Branson tickets, and more! You won't want to miss it! If your business would like to participate in trading goods/services for advertising, contact Tyler Watterson at 417-543-5209.

**Trinity Lutheran Church** thanks everyone who participated in their Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser on Saturday, May 1st. All proceeds went to the Ava Senior Center Meal Program. The event was Sponsored by Trivent.

**Set Free Ministries** offers Saturday night services at 6pm and Sunday morning services at 11am. Saturday nights will primarily be live praise and worship music and testimonies given about how God is bigger and greater than what binds us and that He has the power to break those chains that hold us back from fully living in God's purpose for us. Our Sunday service will be more of a traditional service setting, but as always, with Set Free's judgement-free, come-as-you-are atmosphere! Our Breaking Chains Life Group meetings will be every other Sunday @ 6:30pm. Find us on Facebook! Anyone is welcome. Childcare available at most meetings. We hope to see YOU soon!

## Greetings From the Ava/Cassville/Willow Springs Ranger District

### Mark Twain National Forest

#### Fire/Fuels

Fire is continuing to repair prescribed burn and wildfire control lines. We are finishing up maintenance of equipment and getting all admin work submitted for wildfire and prescribe fire reporting.

#### Recreation

Cobb Ridge Campground has been busy, busy, busy and the Chadwick trails are being ridden a great deal. We like to see the users use their National Forests and be able to share with others. We are gearing up to open North Fork campground - the water system has been turned on this week and testing is being done to insure safe water for our users. Planned opening date is May 15. We will have a new host at North Fork this summer so we are excited for her to start.

*North Fork Recreation Area:* Boulders have been placed to keep users on the pavement. In the near future some a new gate will be installed at entrance a CC Highway and 3 others in the day use area.

*Horton Trailhead, Collins Ridge Trailhead, Hay Hollow Trailhead:* JR Rhodes, Wilderness/Non-motorized manager, has been working with the Ridge Runner Chapter of the MO Back-Country Horseman to install hitching rails and mounting blocks. Thank you BCH!

*Lookout Road (near Cobb Ridge Campground):* The Forest Service has retained jurisdiction of the road from where the pavement ends at Cobb Ridge to just before the Bull Creek bridge. This road has become extremely rough. Currently we advise people to use caution if using that road and that is suitable for 4WD vehicles, anything lower could drag bottom.

#### Quail Forever

Looking to make a positive impact on habitat, wildlife, and their local community, the Heart of the Ozarks Chapter of Quail Forever has been hard at work in Howell, Douglas and Oregon counties since 2008! This group of dedicated volunteers has hosted mentored upland hunts for youth, improved wildlife habitat in the local area, provided food plot seed, held fundraising banquets and more – all to support their goals of connecting the community with the outdoors and conserving wildlife through habitat improvements. Interested in attending an upcoming chapter event, getting food plot seed, or becoming a volunteer? Contact Olivia Dixon at [dixon631@centurytel.net](mailto:dixon631@centurytel.net) or visit Heart of the Ozarks Quail Forever on Facebook.

#### Administration

May 31st – Memorial Day

The Forest Service offices will be closed, Monday, May 31st, in honor of Memorial Day.

The Ava office is cognizant of the impact of the Coronavirus and we are taking precautions locally. With this in mind, we are assisting visitors to the office outdoors, as much as possible, or by telephone. Access into the buildings is limited and a mask must be worn.

If you have any questions regarding the listed activities, please feel free to call the Ava District Office at 417-683-4428.



**Ava Chamber of Commerce  
Business Appreciation Luncheon**

**Tuesday, May 11th  
11:30-1:00**

*In the center of the new the Ava Square!*  
(Lions Club if raining)

**Come Enjoy a Complimentary Lunch!**  
*It's the Chamber's way of saying "Thank You"  
to our Area Businesses.*

*All Ava Businesses Invited!*