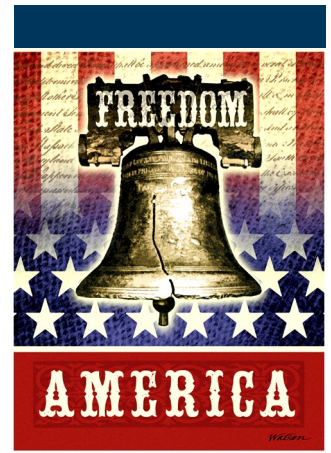


# Ava Area CHAMBER of COMMERCE

## Chamber Chat

July 2021



### What's Happening

**7/12** Chamber Board  
Meeting @ 5pm

**7/13** Chamber Luncheon  
(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, Logan Little

#### 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)

## Chamber's Vice President Honored as Finalist for Prestigious State Award Program



The Lieutenant Governor's Senior Service Award is intended to promote and highlight the positive accomplishments Missouri's senior citizens provide their local communities. Richard Sturgeon was nominated to receive this honorable award for the countless hours over the past decade he has dedicated to serving the Ava Community. Richard was a finalist among nearly 200 nominees across the state and received a letter and certificate of appreciation from Missouri Lieutenant Governor, Mike Kehoe. The following is an excerpt from his nomination letter.

Although "retired" for many years, Richard Sturgeon continues to serve to the Ava community through his ongoing volunteer involvement. A Douglas County resident since 2006, Richard and his wife Alice moved to Ava from the Chicago area to be near his aging parents who had been Ava residents since the 1970s.

A sample of Richard's volunteer work since moving to Douglas County, MO.

#### Ava Lions Club

Served as President, Vice President, Guiding Lion, and on Membership Committee

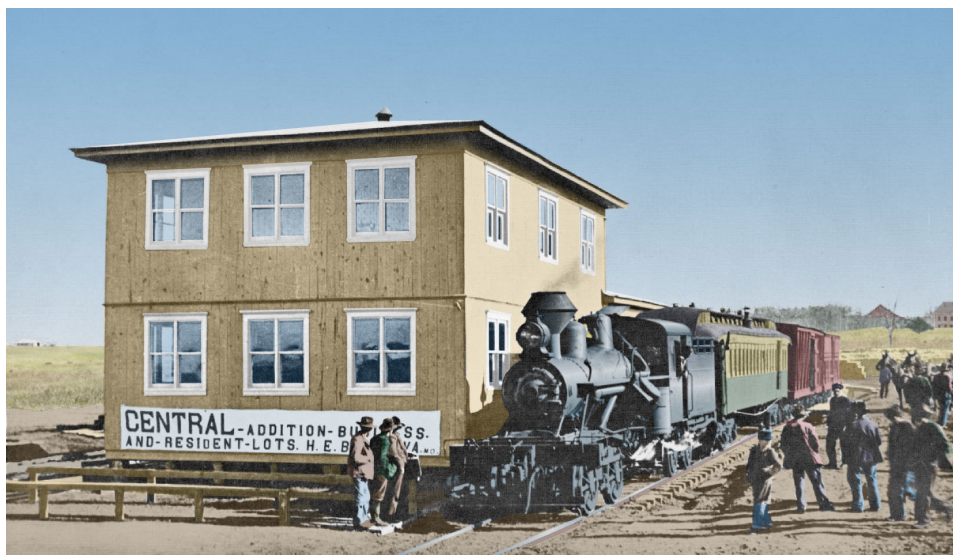
Richard has been a member of the Ava Lions Club since 2007 and is actively involved in its activities and projects that benefit the community. He has served as Lions Club as President, Vice President and Guiding Lion for many years, and is currently on the membership committee. He is the person responsible for scheduling the rental of the Lions Club Building to individuals and organizations, and in that capacity assists many non-profit groups in their activities. Richard has volunteered his time to many community events such as the Lions annual Halloween Costume Contest, Lion's 5K Walk/Run for Sight, and the Christmas Wreath Fundraising event. He was also instrumental in having used eye-glass deposit boxes made and placed around Ava to help those in need of no-cost eyeglasses. Richard has played an important role in reviving and strengthening the Ava club as well as doing the same for the Mountain Grove club.

#### Trinity Lutheran Church of Ava

Served as Vice President and Member of Board of Directors for 10 years, and as

*Article continues on page 6*

## Ava Depot just after completion in February 1910.



The Ava Train Depot stood in the now Ava High School parking lot across from Ray's Electric on Jefferson Street.

The Douglas County Public Library announces a presentation on the Ava-Mansfield Railroad by John Cluff on Thursday, July 15, at 7pm. Mr. Cluff has done extensive research on the railroad and its impact on the Ava community. The program is full of interesting information and photos. All are welcome to attend.

**SHOP SMALL**  
*AVA -&- MO*  
*support local businesses*

**ADVERTISE  
YOUR  
BUSINESS  
WITH US**



**MEMBERS!** Secure your ad space in the 2021-2022 Ava Chamber Business Directory & Community Guide

Want to use your current ad? Just let us know, and you can take it off your 'to-do' list! Even if you are doing a new ad, be sure to at least reserve your spot. Spaces are limited and are going quickly.

RSVP Today! *You won't be invoiced until August!*

Want to help welcome new residents and attract new customers? Then the Ava Chamber of Commerce has a great opportunity for you!

The Chamber's Welcome Team will once again be assembling "New Resident Welcome Bags". Each bag is full of area information and goodies to welcome new residents, help them feel at home in their new surroundings, and encourage them to get involved in our community.

If your business or organization would like to be among those reaching out to new residents, please drop off your promotional items (gift certificates, coupons, small welcome gift items, etc.) in a quantity of 25, to the Ava Chamber office by 5pm on Monday, July 12th. Maybe consider an additional 25 to have available in the Chamber office brochure racks. Your local Chamber is working for YOU!





# Douglas County Fair

## Demolition Derby

Saturday, July 17th

Limited Weld Full Size Derby - Lawn  
Mower Derby - Little Tykes Power-  
Wheel Derby!

Lots of delicious food! Livestock  
Show will be held during the day.

Gates open at 4PM. Show starts at  
7PM. For more information on fees,  
entries, or being a vendor, visit their  
Facebook page at *Douglas County  
Fair*.

In observance of

**INDEPENDENCE  
DAY** Our office will be closed  
on July 5th.

*Ava Area Chamber of Commerce*



## NEW LOCATION - OPEN HOUSE!

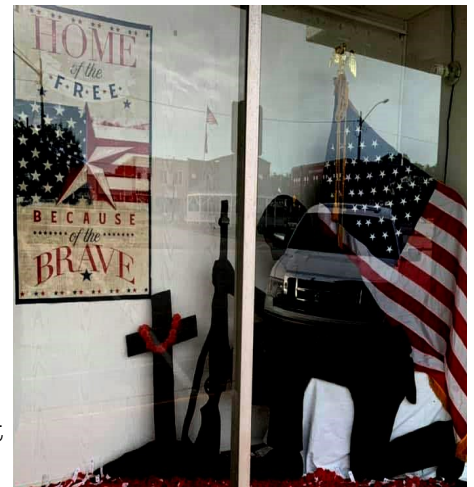


**VFW & VFW Auxiliary Post 5993 Ava, MO**

Invites you to their New Location Open  
House on July 10th from 2pm-4pm.

Chamber of Commerce Ribbon Cutting 2pm.

Tour their newly renovated building on the  
NW corner of the Ava Square. POW/MIA Table Ceremony at  
2:30. Cake and coffee will be served. Everyone is welcome!



**Freedom** has its life in the hearts, the  
actions, the spirit of men, and so it  
must be daily earned and refreshed -  
else like a flower cut from its life-giving  
roots, it will wither and die.

*~Dwight D. Eisenhower*



## 4th of July Celebration at Rockbridge

July 4th from  
10am-9:30pm!

Bring your family & friends to Rockbridge's Annual Independence Day Celebration.

Vendors open at 10AM

Games start at 10AM

Music by Whetstone 5-8PM

Kid's Fishing 5-8PM

Pony Rides & Petting Zoo open at 5PM

Spectacular Fireworks at Dusk!

Bring your chairs and enjoy an evening of fun at Rockbridge, MO!

## July Chamber Luncheon

CREATING CONNECTIONS

**July 13th @ 12PM**

Hosted by:

*Bethany Baptist Church*

Located at 302 Valentine Rd.

*Upcoming Luncheons*

*August - Ozarks Small Business  
Incubator (OzSBI)*

*September – OPEN*

*October – Great Southern Bank*



Douglas County Republican Central Committee & Mt. Zion Church are hosting a 4th of July Celebration on July 5th from 5:30pm until after dark.

Special Guests: Missouri Lieutenant Governor, Mike Kehoe; State Representative, Travis Smith; State Senator, Karla Eslinger; and others. Softball game, kids games, fellowship, and fun. Cookout of hot dogs, brats, baked beans, slaw, and deserts for a donation. PowerPoint presentation on the signers of the Declaration of Independence and of course fireworks. The Farnum Family will be providing music. Bring your lawn chair and join us.



## Pioneer Heritage Festival of the Ozarks - Friday & Saturday, October 1st 2nd - Ava, MO.



- 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! Mark your Calendars and Come join the Fun!

For information: Find us on Facebook @ Pioneer Heritage Festival of the Ozarks, visit our website [www.heritage417.com](http://www.heritage417.com), or call 417-543-3401.

## Chamber Member News

**Ava Art Guild's** monthly workshop will be held on July 10th at 2pm. Candace Butler will teach beginner acrylic painting using a brush and Q-tips. Anyone is welcome. All supplies provided. The Gallery is open Wed.-Sat. from 10-4 and is located at 303 E Washington Ave, across from the Douglas County Herald. For more information call 417-893-9638, visit [avaartguild.org](http://avaartguild.org) or follow us on Facebook.

**Douglas County Public Library** announces that John Cluff will be presenting a program with slideshow and information on the Ava-Mansfield Railroad (circa 1910) on Thursday, July 15, at 7pm at the library. All are welcome to attend.

**Ava Lions Club is having a Quilt Raffle** for two Beautiful Handmade Quilts! \$1.00 for 1 Ticket or 10 tickets for \$5.00. To purchase tickets or see the quilts, call Richard at 543-8939.

**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). 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.

### **CHRISTMAS IN JULY COMMUNITY EVENT! SATURDAY, JULY 10TH from 1pm - 4pm**

Residents of Ava and Douglas County are invited to bring their immediate family to the first annual Christmas in July community give-back event! The store at DOCO is comprised of donations and new retail return items! Items include bed sheets, coffee makers, vacuums, household items, dishes, and so much more!  
Each person may shop from our "store" for FREE! No income guidelines! Everyone is welcome!

1306 Prince St. | DOCO Inc. Sheltered Workshop

**Rockbridge Trout Ranch Appreciates its Locals!** Did you know that Rockbridge offers a free catch and keep fishing permit on the 1st Wednesday of EVERY month to our locals? Stop by the lodge to get your FREE permit, then head on out and reel in a big one! \*This offer is valid for our catch and keep permits only. Must keep everything you catch, cost of trout is \$4.90 per pound. You do the catching and we'll do the cleaning!

**Bethany Baptist Church** is having their Vacation Bible School July 7-9, 6pm to 8:00pm. Ages 6 years thru teens. Fun adventure theme! Call 417-683-2476 for more details. All kids welcome!

**Touch of Healing Wellness Center** is offering Macrobiotic Cooking Classes in Ava. Get one-on-one, hands-on instruction! Classes are on Saturdays from 9am-1pm July 10 & 24th. \$45 per class. Reserve your spot at 417-522-3647, by the Friday before each class. \*Minimum of 6 students required to hold class. Touch of Healing Wellness Center is located just off the east side of the Ava Square, 305 E. Washington - Ava, MO.

### **Chamber EDC Meets Monthly**

The Ava Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Committee's goals are to improve our community, both esthetically and economically, bring new business to town, and strengthen existing businesses in our area. Anyone interested in joining them in their mission please call Dick Salgado at 417-872-6287 for more information.



### **New Chamber Members**

**ProServe LLC - Heating and Air**  
(417) 989-9167

**Ben Brown - Individual Member**



## Ava Area Chamber of Commerce

810 Collins Avenue

P.O. Box 1103

Ava, MO 65608

### Chamber's Vice President Honored

*Continued from page 1*

Public Relations/Advertising  
Chairman.



#### *Ava Area Chamber of Commerce*

Serves as Vice President/Historian, Economic Development Committee Member, Events & Activities Committee Member, and served as Work Ready Program Chairman

Since 2006, Richard has volunteered his time serving as a Board Member of the Ava Area Chamber of Commerce and has served in the office of Board Vice President since 2012. In his 15 years with the Ava Chamber, Richard has gone beyond sharing the workload associated with Chamber events, activities, and daily operations by anticipating upcoming needs and taking care of necessary tasks ahead of schedule. Richard brings a stellar work-ethic and attention to detail to his volunteer efforts and lightens the load of those working with him.

The time and dedication that Richard Sturgeon has given, and continues to give, actively supports the

Ava Chamber and the local organizations he is a member of and enriches our community in a multitude of ways.

We are proud to have Richard, and the many like him, represent Douglas County in such an honorable way. He truly has the heart of a dedicated volunteer. Congratulations, Richard Sturgeon! May you never retire from your "retirement".



Join us in welcoming the  
Chamber's newest Board  
Member, Logan Little.

Logan is a life-long resident of Douglas County and Assistant Retail Manager with Town & Country Bank of Ava. We are so happy to have him on-board!

