



The Chamber

Excelsior Springs Area Chamber of Commerce

BRIAN RICE, President • 816-630-6161 • Brian@ExSpgsChamber.com

CHAMBER CELEBRATES NEW YEAR

April marks the start of a new year for the Chamber of Commerce. With that change, we're excited to have Abigail Douglas take the gavel and head our Board of Directors as Chairperson for 2023-24.

Abi's experience with the Chamber stretches back to 2020 when she joined the board. During her tenure, she quickly rose to leadership roles within the Westside Committee and the Waterfest Committee, and helped launch the Chamber's Farmer's Market last year, offering fresh produce and foods to everyone by utilizing the USDA's SNAP program. She is keenly aware of the needs of our community and is not afraid to work toward making things happen. As an example, Abi was instrumental in forming the Westside's newest Community Improvement District, a project that took years of hard work.

Her dedication and hours of service with the Chamber earned her the esteemed Volunteer of the Year award this past December.

"Working with Abi over these past few years, it's obvious that she loves this community and everyone in it," said Chamber President Brian Rice. "Her energy and her experience with local business makes Abi the perfect leader for our board in the year ahead and I can't wait to see what she brings to the table."

The Chamber saw lots of changes in 2022, including the hiring of Rice as Chamber President. With that change came the revising of Chamber bylaws



ABIGAIL DOUGLAS

Chamber Chairperson 2023-24
Mid-Continent Public Library

and mission statement. These changes streamlined the board and refocused the Chamber's purpose to help businesses engage in the community, influence purposeful change and impact our future for a greater quality of life for all.

The Chamber's focus has moved away from committees and events and toward the formation of the Westside Community Improvement District, toward engaging partnerships with city and school officials, the Downtown Excelsior Partnership, SAFE and other community organizations, and toward better representation of its business members.

The Chamber's Farmer's Market will return for its second year in

June, bringing fresh produce and food to the downtown area and adding Double-Up Food Bucks to its list of services. Tammy Murphy was recently hired to be this year's Farmer's Market Coordinator and is already at work recruiting a larger selection of vendors and activities.

"This was a very positive and productive year for the Chamber," said outgoing Chairman Bill Westerheide. "We accomplished a lot. I'm proud of the path we're on and I'm excited for our community. I think Abi will take what we started and keep the momentum going."

Joining Abi are incoming board members Jeremy Stone from Edward Jones Investments and Melissa Simmons from Remax Area Real Estate. They join returning members Mark Spohn from Payne Jailhouse B&B and Melinda Mehaffy with the City of Excelsior Springs.

Current board members are Mark Bullimore (Excelsior Springs School District), Courtney Cole (Excelsior Citizen), Mike Edwards (Ameren Missouri), Kristen DeHart (Excelsior Springs Hospital), Janet Wesley (Mediacom), Clint Hylton (Shelter Insurance) and Shelby Welch (Community Bank of Missouri). Janet Blauvelt served as Past Chairman.

It's an exciting time to be a Chamber member and an thrilling time to live in Excelsior Springs. We look forward to representing you and working with you in the year ahead.

UPCOMING EVENTS

THURS • MAR. 16

Chamber Farmer's Market Committee meeting
11:00 a.m.

Chamber office
426 Thompson Ave, ESMO

FRI • MAR. 17

Living a Cancer-Free Lifestyle
11:30 a.m.

ES Community Center
500 Tiger Drive, ESMO

SAT. • MAR. 18

Kids Day Out
Noon

Moments & Memories
207 Thompson Ave, ESMO

THURS • MAR. 23

Eden Village Raise the Roof
6:00 p.m.

The Elms Hotel & Spa
401 Regent St, ESMO

FRI • MAR. 24

Irish for the Day tour
10:00 a.m.

Chamber office
426 Thompson Ave, ESMO

Craft and Sip (Bleach Shirts)
7:00 p.m.

Moments & Memories
207 Thompson Ave, ESMO

SAT • MAR. 25

Sippin' into Springtime
11:00 a.m.

Downtown Excelsior businesses

WED • MAR. 29, 2023

Westside Committee meeting
Noon

Mid-Continent Library
1460 Kearney Rd, ESMO

SAT • APR. 1, 2023

Shamrock Hills Grand Opening
Noon

Shamrock Hills Vineyard
2300 Shoemaker Rd, ESMO

Adult Easter Egg Hunt
1:45 p.m.

Chamber office
426 Thompson Ave, ESMO

SHOES
FOR ORPHAN SOULS®
Hope shines here.®

Donate shoes in March

Remember the Excelsior Springs Rotary Shoes for Orphan Souls Drive is underway until the end of March. Donations of new shoes, new shoelaces or new socks are welcome. Bring your donations to the Excelsior Springs Chamber of Commerce office.

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Watershed plans discussed

If you missed the City's Watershed Study Open House last week, you can still see the results and watch video of the event. Visit: Cityofesmo.com/index.php/fishingriverdowntown/

Chamber endorses two April 4 ballot questions

Following in our mission to influence purposeful change and impact our future for a greater quality of life for all, the Chamber endorses two ballot questions that will have a positive effect on our community and business.

PROPOSITION LEWIS

As you'll hear during this month's luncheon, Proposition Lewis is a no-tax-increase levy transfer question that will allow the school district to build a new Lewis Elementary School in the downtown area. It needs voter approval to transfer .70 from debt services fund to the operating fund. This gives the district the funds needed for construction, with no additional cost to you!

RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA 3% SALES TAX

It is not customary to want more sales tax, but in this case the

Chamber agrees that the 3% sales tax funds are important. This money is necessary to help increase public safety, to aid in prevention education and awareness aimed at our youth, and to abate chronic neighborhood nuisances related to illegal drug activity. Details from states who already have legalized marijuana prove that first responder calls will increase.

It's important to note that if you have been prescribed medicinal marijuana, you will not see an increase in cost. This tax is only on recreational marijuana and nothing else.

Recreational marijuana is legal, its use will rise in our community, let's give our public servants what they need to keep our residents safe.

Please take time to vote on April 4 and please consider voting YES on both of these important issues.



BLUE SKIES PEDIATRICS

a service of EXCELSIOR SPRINGS HOSPITAL



Excelsior Springs Hospital is happy to announce that they have opened Blue Skies Pediatrics, a Service of Excelsior Springs Hospital in Kansas City (located behind Gary Crossley Ford) at 9151 NE 81st Terr, Suite 130. Blue Skies Pediatrics is bringing professional care closer to home, offering services to newborns, adolescents, and teens.

Dr. Melanie Lively and Dr. Paul Lively are a husband-and-wife team that has been serving the Northland for over 23 years. They treat their patients as they would want their own family treated. Together they have 50 years of combined experience in pediatrics. Paul and Melanie live in the same Liberty home they moved to in 1999.

Dr. Melanie Lively is a general pediatrician who enjoys preventative medicine and advocating for the health and welfare of kids and adolescents throughout the community.

Dr. Paul Lively has a general pediatrics background and special interests in dermatology, asthma and allergy, infectious diseases, and behavioral conditions common to children and young people.

If you are in need of a pediatrician, please consider Blue Skies Pediatrics. Get started today by calling 816-407-8550.



Dr. Paul Lively



Dr. Melanie Lively

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The Chamber is excited to announce our newest members who joined this past month. Please support these new members with your business.

**A TOTAL INSURANCE
AGENCY**
Jim Rice

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**NURTURE FAMILY
CHIROPRACTIC**
Ashley Carter

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Open Houses April 28-29

Spring is here and the annual **City Wide Garage Sales** take place **April 28-29**. The Chamber encourages businesses to hold **Open Houses** or **Sidewalk Sales** during this time to really make this weekend a "shop local" event for the entire community.