

# Construction Underway for 712 Innovations; Executive Director Hired

December will be a busy month for those involved in getting 712 Innovations up and running in preparation of an official opening in January 2015. Demolition of the space at 712 S Kansas is taking place with construction and finishing set to happen in late December/early January.

**Jared Starkey**, an active entrepreneur in the community and owner of PC911, has been hired as executive director of 712 Innovations. He'll be supervising construction, working with his management board and beginning the process of developing policies and welcoming tenants. The project is jointly funded using public and private dollars.

**712 Innovations** is a creative space where individuals can access tools, office space and expertise. It will be a space where people can turn ideas into actual products, and then manufacture them as a business. Participants will be encouraged to pursue creative prototypes and products, resulting in market-ready business opportunities. In addition to the space's economic and workforce development benefits, Topeka's most creative and scientific minds will have a place to develop an innovative culture.

A variety of classes will be offered, from learning how to use the space and equipment to starting and operating a business.

"During the start-up phase of 712 Innovations, we want to provide a place that continues to develop a culture of entrepreneurship for Topeka, and accelerates growth and learning by providing the tools and skills to succeed," said Karl Klein, chair of the 712 Innovations Management Committee. "We will have an environment that is friendly, where visitors are enveloped in an atmosphere of social, creative and technical resources. The combination of a co-workspace and makerspace will allow for exploring a variety of innovative ideas and opportunities."

Starkey will be working with entrepreneurs to welcome them as members to either the co-work space or the makerspace. *Continued on page 4.*



Jared Starkey



Zach Haney (third from left) was the first place winner of the inaugural **Pitch Contest** sponsored by GO Topeka's Entrepreneurial and Minority Business program and Washburn's School of Business. Haney was one of several undergraduate students presenting a business plan for a new business November 18. Haney won \$1,000 cash and \$4,500 in professional services for his **Night Terrors** haunted house idea. Pictured from left to right are Dr. Jerry Farley, Washburn president; Allan Towle, board chair of GO Topeka; Haney; and Dean David Sollars, Washburn School of Business. Haney has been recognized for his entrepreneurial spirit with his carnival business, The Carnival Guy, which he has operated in Topeka since he was 16 years old.

## CHAMBER news



[www.heartlandvisioning.com](http://www.heartlandvisioning.com)

Heartland Visioning will be taking on a more active presence in the community with several new initiatives in 2015.

More continued contact with grassroots community members are planned through input gathering sessions and exciting new partnerships. With these changes comes a need for additional staffing.

Heartland Visioning is seeking a part-time Executive Assistant to add to the existing staff.

This position will provide support to the Steering Committee and Management Committee volunteers, manage the Heartland Visioning office, assist staff with organizational activities and play a role in event planning and communications. Visit the Heartland Visioning website for a full job description. Anyone interested in applying for the Executive Assistant position should send a cover letter and resume to [info@heartlandvisioning.com](mailto:info@heartlandvisioning.com).

Greater  
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CHAMBER & GO TOPEKA

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**CHAMBER**  
**Staff Profile**

**Marsha Sheahan**  
**Vice President Public Relations**  
35+ years at the Chamber

- Began Leadership Greater Topeka in 1984
- Haunts your email box on Friday mornings
- Topeka native, fourth generation
- Married to Bill, the boy across the street growing up
- Has a black & white Collie
- Three children, two grandchildren
- Loves to garden—flowers, not veggies!
- Serves on Topeka High School Historical Society board
- Retiring in January 2015

**CHAMBER** news

**TEDx** Topeka-  
x = independently organized TED event

# Chamber Sponsored Event A Huge Success

On Wednesday, November 12, over 150 people gathered at the Topeka Civic Theatre and Academy for TEDxTopeka. It was an evening of amazing speakers, inspirational and thought-provoking videos and mind-blowing discussion.

“This event was an opportunity for speakers from Topeka and the surrounding areas to share their ideas with the world,” said Nathan Morris, TEDxTopeka founder and organizing committee member. “There is so much talent in this community, we wanted TEDxTopeka to help highlight the amazing things and people here.” This independently produced event, operated under a license from TED, was organized by community volunteers with the goal to start conversations, share ideas and engage the community.

The TEDxTopeka committee will be planning follow-up events in the coming months to keep the conversation that began November 12, going. More details about the follow-up events will be coming soon.

A special thanks to the TEDxTopeka speakers for sharing their passion and ideas with us: Brendan Wiley, Philip “Brail” Watson, Sarah Smarsh, Drew Blas, Michael Stewart, Jarrod Guth and SuEllen Fried. Videos of all talks will be released soon on [TEDxTopeka.com](http://TEDxTopeka.com).

Another huge thank you to the TEDxTopeka sponsors: Fast Forward Topeka, Bartlett & West, Heartland Visioning, the Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce and the Topeka Civic Theatre and Academy.



Speaker Philip “Brail” Watson captivated the audience with his message asking for understanding.



Speakers Sarah Smarsh and Brendan Wiley shared ideas during breaks.



Audience members Stephen Rogers, Megan Rogers, Nathan Schmidt and Christina Turner enjoyed the evening.



Nathan Morris, Meridian Roofing Solutions, was the lead organizer for TEDxTopeka.

# County-wide Sales Tax Extension Passes

On November 4, Shawnee Countians voted to extend the  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent sales tax to fund road and bridge projects, economic development, the Topeka Zoo, maintenance and upgrades for the Kansas Expocentre and a bikeways master plan. This was a critical vote.

The sales tax yields \$15 million annually of which \$5 million is allocated by the Joint Economic Development Organization to GO Topeka to provide services and direct incentives to new companies that locate here and existing employers who choose to expand here. The sales tax revenues are also directed to GO Topeka's Entrepreneurial and Minority Business Development programs and other initiatives all of which play a significant role in ensuring Shawnee County's economy continues to grow.

The Topeka Chamber supported passage of the  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent sales tax and, thanks to many members, assisted with a successful campaign led by Future Forward to help the voters of Shawnee County understand they made the right choice in 2004 when they passed the  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent sales tax and they made the right choice again in November by agreeing to extend the tax.

## Jenkins Shares Information about Next Congressional Session

**Congresswoman Lynn Jenkins** was the featured guest at the Chamber's Federal luncheon Monday, November 24. Before a group of approximately 25 business and community leaders and Chamber leadership and staff, Jenkins shared her thoughts about the results of the November 4 elections and the possible impact they will have on the upcoming Congress.

Jenkins was just elected to her fourth term in Congress, where she serves on the powerful House Ways and Means Committee. Those in attendance enjoyed the opportunity to interact informally with Jenkins and speak with her about their own priorities, including transportation infrastructure and healthcare costs.

The event was sponsored by AT&T, with Mike Scott, president of AT&T Kansas in attendance.



Lynn Jenkins

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Randy Morris  
President

**712 Innovations** (Continued from page 1)

The co-work space will be a unique area where entrepreneurs can co-locate to engage, collaborate and encourage one another toward business success. There will be four dedicated office spaces, a shared conference room, equipment and internet.

The Makerspace will serve as a community workshop or laboratory where members can physically create, share knowledge and have access to facilities and programming while working on projects. In addition to general shop equipment and tools, the following will be available: Machine/CNC Shop, Laser Cutter, Soldering Lab, Sewing Workshop, Electronics Lab and Computer Lab.

A wide range of membership options will be available for both types of spaces.

"712 Innovations is the only combined makerspace/co-work space in the state," according to Glenda Washington, GO Topeka's vice president of entrepreneurial and minority business development. "After looking at many similar projects in other communities, we believe we've taken the best ideas and folded them into our project here in Topeka."

Additional information is posted and will be regularly updated at [712innovations.com](http://712innovations.com)

## Project Timeline

**Zach Snethen, Karl Fundenberger, and Matt Gassen organize a meeting for Topekans interested in a "coworking" space in Topeka. Jared Starkey attends the meeting and finds there are a handful of people interested in a "hackerspace" as well.**

**2010**

**Coworkers, operating under the name "The Root Cellar" organize a Facebook group and officially start polling the public for interest. The "hacker-space" side forms under the name "Ad Astra Labs" and creates a Facebook page. The Makers & Hackers meet Thursday Nights at PC911 and begin working on projects.**

**Both groups start approaching funders in the community and are universally told that the groups should work together.**

**2011**

**GO Topeka is advised, by a consultant, that coworking and makerspace efforts are showing returns in the form of economic development. Doug Kinsinger, Chamber president, starts working with Jared Starkey and Matt Gassen to merge the two ideas.**

**GO Topeka announces financial support for the newly merged space "712 Innovations" and the working group identifies a space available. Immediately the corporate community identifies the cause as worthy and contributes significant resources in cash, goods and services.**

**2012**

**In January, 712 Innovations is expected to open at 712 Kansas Avenue with Jared Starkey as the first executive director.**

**2013****2014****2015**

## 712 Management Committee

**Karl Klein**  
Regional Director  
Washburn Small Business  
Development Center

**Ben Rufenacht**  
Engineer, AMEC

**Gina Millsap**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Topeka and Shawnee County  
Public Library

**Scott Smathers**  
Vice President Economic  
Development  
GO Topeka

**Jesse Ramirez**  
IT Director  
Midland Care Topeka

**Zach Snethen**  
Associate AIA, LEED AP  
HTK Architects PA



Plans are done and construction has begun for the 712 Innovations at 712 S. Kansas Avenue.



**Blue Valley Tele-Communications/Networks Plus** conducted ribbon cutting ceremonies at their offices located at 3003 SW Harrison November 18 prior to hosting a reception for clients and vendors later that evening. Blue Valley Tele-Communications, headquartered in Home, Kansas, has purchased Networks Plus and offers comprehensive communications and technology services. Brian Thomason is the general manager/CEO of the combined organizations.



Michelle Leivan, owner of **Art Print Express** celebrated the opening of a retail store in Fleming Place Shopping Center, 1047B SW Gage, October 31. The shop offers complete framing services in addition to fine art giclée prints of works by local and regional artists.



**Bedsprings and Burlap** has recently relocated to 4008 SW Topeka Boulevard. Jill Beam and Sharon Nolde, co-owners, hosted ribbon cutting ceremonies November 21 to celebrate the move and showcase new merchandise available for the holidays. They specialize in re-purposed furniture, vintage home décor, children's accessories and coffee by Coffee Switch.

**CITY OF CHARACTER**

## SENSITIVITY:

Using my senses to perceive the true attitudes and emotions of others



Ribbon cutting ceremonies for **TARC's Virginia Geers** building at 2701 SW Randolph were November 17. The event celebrated the reopening of their newly renovated day and senior services space as well as TARC's 60th year of operations. TARC provides services, support and advocacy for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The congratulations plaque was presented to TARC board chair Barb Duncan.



The **Dillon's** store in Brookwood, 2815 SW 29th Street, celebrated the conclusion of a remodeling project November 21. Kim Svoboda, Zone 3 District Manager for Dillon Companies, commended Kelly Miller-Spencer, store manager, and her department heads for their commitment to their customers and making the grocery shopping experience memorable.



Brian Haug, Amber Beckley, Brendan Jensen and Mikki Burcher found fun, friendships and food at the Fast Forward Holiday Party Thursday, November 20 at the Kansas Children's Discovery Center. Photo provided by Rob Nall.



## SAVE THE DATE

Thursday  
01.22.15  
Chamber Annual Meeting  
RSVP online

## THINKING OF ADDING EMPLOYEES OR EXPANDING YOUR FACILITY?

There may be assistance available to you in the form of tax incentives and small business or employee on-the-job training programs!

Call GO Topeka at YOUR Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce for more details – 785.234.2644.

**Scott Smathers**  
Vice President  
Economic Development

**Glenda Washington**  
Vice President  
Entrepreneurial and Minority Business Development



There's a new community for Topeka and Shawnee County entrepreneurs and small business owners: **Topeka Entrepreneur**.

Join us online so you never miss out on news, advice and conversation.



Facebook: Topeka Entrepreneurs  
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LinkedIn: Topeka Entrepreneurs

## MEMBER *profile*

Brian Adams and Scott May formed Top City Soda Pop in December 2013. After months of trial and error, they found the perfect root beer recipe. In June of 2014, Top City launched with their flagship flavor, Root Beer, at Topeka's Tap That Beer Festival. Since then, Top City has been featured at various community events and festivals. The public response has been incredible, as many retailers sell-out as soon as they receive a shipment.

Adams and May continue to upgrade their bottling system to meet the growing demand. Although Top City Soda Pop is a small operation, they strive to bring a quality product to the Topeka market. They continue working with new businesses to add to the growing list of retail partners along with developing new flavors to meet the popular tastes.

### *What is something interesting about Top City Soda Pop that the Chamber membership may not know?*

Top City Soda Pop is actually a spin-off of SodaWorks. Owner Brian Adams has sold vintage soda from across the country for three years. When approached by friend Scott May to create their own soda, a partnership was formed. At outdoor fairs and festivals, look for the SodaWorks booth and you will find Top City Root Beer!

### *What makes Top City Soda Pop unique from other sodas?*

Unlike other flavors, root beer is a combination of nearly 20 different flavors (from cinnamon to cherry, vanilla to wintergreen). We tested several batches to hit the right combination. After several blind taste tests, we chose the formula that scored best with the public, a balance of flavor and smoothness that hits all the right notes. Try it!

### *Is it soda or pop?*

Although the term "pop" is most common in the Midwest to describe a fizzy soft drink, co-owner Brian Adams prefers to say "sodapop" because of the old-timeyness. Co-owner Scott May disagrees and says "pop" each and every time!

### *What is your signature flavor?*

As with most small sodapop bottlers, Root Beer is our flagship flavor. It's an American favorite!

### *Can we expect a new flavor for 2015?*

We have "sneak previewed" our Cream Soda with great success. We plan to get it in bottles and on store shelves very soon. Our plan is to launch a couple new flavors each year.

### *Where can we purchase your products?*

Our full list of retailers is on our website: [topcitysodapop.com](http://topcitysodapop.com). A list that is growing!

For our more information visit their website at [topcitysodapop.com](http://topcitysodapop.com) and follow them on Facebook and Twitter.



Co-owners Brian Adams (right) and Scott May (left).

## 2015 New Years Resolution

1. actively participate
2. giveback
3. have fun
4. learn
5. meet new people

### Chamber Staff Can Help!

Our calendar is full of events we would love to see you attend. We are always looking for those willing to join a committee, serve as an Ambassador, Diplomat or host an event. Contact us!

785.234.2644

[topekachamber.org](http://topekachamber.org)

Would you like to tell your Chamber colleagues about your expansions, new locations, awards and honors, or new products and services? Sorry, personnel changes or announcements are not included. Notation information and your logo should be e-mailed to Marsha Sheahan at [msheahan@TopekaChamber.org](mailto:msheahan@TopekaChamber.org).

**Center for Organizational Excellence**

Washburn University will offer a "Lean Six Sigma: White Belt" course Friday, January 9, 2015, from 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Cost is \$25 per participant. Participants will be introduced to the method of organizational improvement called Lean Six Sigma. This brief course introduces participants to the LSS problem solving phases as well as some of the more common methods and tools. For more information and to register visit the web site at [www.washburn.edu/ao/coe](http://www.washburn.edu/ao/coe) or call 785.670.1399.



The Topeka Community Foundation has announced the widely popular "Topeka Gives" event, which began in 2013 as part of the organization's 30th Anniversary celebration, is returning for a third year on **June 2, 2015** inside Fairlawn Plaza Mall. "We are pleased to announce that after fully evaluating the impact of Topeka Gives, we will again be providing an opportunity for our community to support the causes they care about at Topeka Gives 2015," said Foundation Vice President Marsha Pope. "We feel this event adds value to the charitable fabric of our community." Support of the event has grown from 75 organizations in 2013 to 111 in 2014 and from \$189,000 in 2013 to more than \$308,000 contributed in 2014. The Foundation provided \$30,000 in "match money" in 2013 and \$35,000 in 2014. **In 2015, \$56,500.00 will be provided in matching funds.** Area donors and businesses, seeing the impact of this event on the community, have made contributions toward the pool of funds used as "match money."



The Topeka Community Foundation has granted \$285,485.00 to twenty organizations in Shawnee and neighboring counties through its Kansas Blood Service Fund. The grants were made as part of the Foundation's "Healthy Lifestyles" initiative to programs and projects which proposed to directly and positively change health habits, behaviors and/or lifestyles through prevention, intervention and education strategies. Topeka Chamber members receiving funding include: Midland Care Connection, Helping Hands Humane Society, Catholic Charities of NE Kansas, Community Action, Easter Seals Capper Foundation, ERC Child Care Aware NE Kansas, Meals on Wheels, Race Against Breast Cancer, Topeka Metro (Bike Sharing program) and YWCA of Topeka.



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Call Marsha Sheahan or Tiffany Hall for details: 785.234.2644.

**ARE YOU GETTING THE CHAMBER ENEWS?**

If you're not getting eNews on Friday mornings, call or email Adrienne at the Chamber and make sure she has your correct email, 785.234.2644 or [aevans@TopekaChamber.org](mailto:aevans@TopekaChamber.org).

*Holiday Wishes*  
...for peace and joy to our customers  
and the community this season!

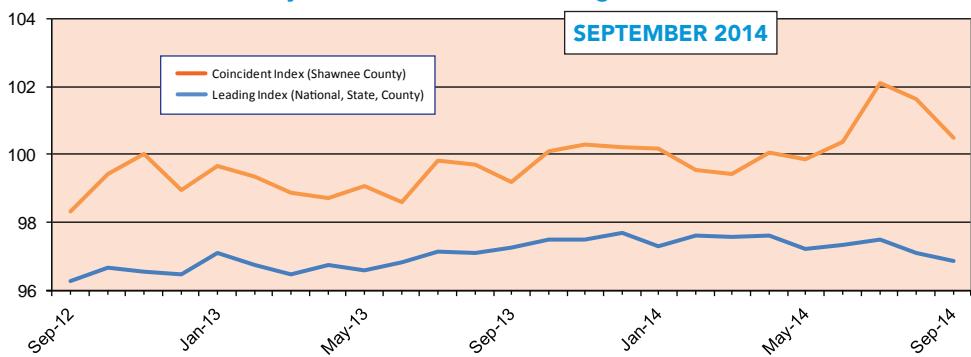
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## Monthly Economic Indicators for the Topeka Area Economy

Washburn University School of Business Leading Index &amp; Coincidence Index



The Washburn University School of Business Leading Index decreased 0.2% in September to a preliminary estimate of 96.9 from 97.1 in August (2005 = 100). The index is a composite of national, state and county indicators whose movements often precede changes in economic growth. The leading index is down 0.5% over the last three months and down 0.7% over the last 6 months.

The Washburn University School of Business Coincident Index, which measures current economic conditions in Shawnee County decreased 1.1% in September to a preliminary estimate of 100.5 from 101.6 in August (2005 = 100). The index is a composite index of county non-farm employment and taxable sales. The coincident index is up 1.1% over the last six months and up 1.3% from September 2013.

Estimated Taxable Sales - Topeka/Shawnee County	
August 2014	\$220,659,415
YTD 2014	\$1,704,686,710
August 2013	\$218,193,753
YTD 2013	\$1,665,031,704

Source: Kansas Department of Revenue

UTILITY HOOK-UPS CITY OF TOPEKA		
Topeka Water**	October 2014	October 2013
Residential	51,797	51,563
Commercial	4,180	4,392
Total	55,977	55,955

\*\*Includes those within the county who use Topeka water.

Westar Energy*	October 2014	October 2013
Residential	68,988	68,822
Commercial	8,208	8,195
Industrial	50	50
Total	77,246	77,067

\*Includes those within the Topeka city limits.

Construction Permit Information City of Topeka	September 2014	August 2014	YTD 2014	September 2013	YTD 2013
New Single Family Residential Permits	10	6	62	5	53
New Multi-Family Residential Permits	16	8	28	0	2
Value, New Residential Units	\$3,073,000	\$1,649,000	\$16,038,000	\$1,320,000	\$12,042,000
New Commercial Units	3	3	21	2	23
Value, New Commercial Units	\$808,857	\$808,857	\$59,829,406	\$867,965	\$12,000,165
New Commercial Alterations	24	24	154	5	163
Value, Commercial Alterations	\$4,445,479	\$4,445,479	\$38,458,707	\$1,402,970	\$36,280,671

Construction Permit Information Unincorporated Shawnee County	September 2014	August 2014	YTD 2014	September 2013	YTD 2013
New Residential Permits	9	15	91	8	85
Value, New Residential Units	\$1,947,400	\$3,273,871	\$16,567,593	\$1,565,000	\$16,263,064
New Commercial Buildings	1	1	7	0	1
Value, New Commercial Buildings	\$125,000	\$430,000	\$25,636,000	\$0	\$350,000
New Commercial Alterations	1	0	3	1	8
Value, Commercial Alterations	\$1,500	\$0	\$8,593,572	\$15,000	\$13,649,545

Civilian Labor Force	September 2014	August 2014	September 2013
Total	119,848	120,942	119,145
Employed	114,377	114,790	112,071
Unemployed	5471	6,152	7,074
Unemployment Rate	4.60%	5.10%	5.90%

Employment (In Thousands) Non Farm Wage and Salary	September 2014	August 2014	September 2013
Natural Resources/Construction	6.3	6.4	6.1
Manufacturing	7	7	7.0
Trade, Transportation, Warehouse, Utilities	18.1	18.3	18.2
Information	1.4	1.5	1.4
Finance Activities	6.8	6.8	7.1
Professional & Business Services	13.4	13.1	12.8
Education & Health Services	17.8	17.7	17.8
Leisure & Hospitality	9.8	10.3	8.9
Other Services	4.9	4.8	4.8
Government	26	25.7	26.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>111.5</b>	<b>111.6</b>	<b>110.2</b>

\*These numbers reflect the five-county MSA. Comparing these figures with 2004 and prior years is not advisable.

ACCRA Cost of Living Data Selected Cities	2014 Third Quarter
Kansas City, KS/MO	98.5
Little Rock, AR	98.7
Manhattan, KS	93.1
<b>Topeka, KS</b>	<b>94.0</b>
Des Moines, IA	93.1
Tulsa, OK	88.1
Springfield, MO	89.4
Oklahoma City, OK	92.3
Omaha, NE	90.3

Topeka participates in the ACCRA Cost of Living Index study which measures differences between areas in the cost of consumer goods and services, excluding taxes and non-consumer expenditures, for professional and managerial households in the top income quintile.



Please join the Chamber staff in welcoming these firms and organizations to Chamber membership and support them by buying from your Chamber colleagues! The following members joined in October 2014 and were approved for membership in November 2014.

## New Members

(From October 2014)

### Blue Valley Tele-Communications/ Networks Plus

Communications; IT consulting  
Jada Ackerman, PR director  
1559 Pony Express Highway  
Home, KS 66438  
877.876.1228  
Sold by: Rise Quinn, Chamber staff

### Coco-Cola Bottling of Topeka

Beverages  
Mike Berry, Sales center manager  
Patrick Garlock  
6700 SW Topeka Boulevard  
Forbes Field, Building 400  
Topeka, KS 66619  
785.232.9372  
Sold by: Adrienne Evans, Chamber staff

### Eagle Auto Wash & Detailing Salon

Auto wash  
Thomas Enstrom, President  
2110 SW Chelsea  
Topeka, KS 66614  
785.272.2886  
Sold by: Doug Kinsinger, Chamber & GO  
Topeka president & CEO

### Moburts Inc.

Retail spices, dried herbs, olive oils, vinegars  
Al Stratman, President  
732 SW Gage Boulevard  
Topeka, KS 66606  
785.806.3025  
Sold by: Adrienne Evans, Chamber staff

### Realty Executives, Preferred Advisors, Inc.

Real Estate  
Karey Brown, Broker/owner  
2220 SE 29th Street  
Topeka, KS 66605  
785.380.0038  
Sold by: Adrienne Evans, Chamber staff

### Aaron Starr - Edward Jones

Financial services  
Aaron Starr  
4009 SW Tenth Avenue  
Topeka, KS 66604  
785.273.2277  
Sold by: Gary Blitsch, Frameworks of  
Topeka, Inc.; Brenden Jensen, Jensen  
Communications

## Welcome to New Assignees

(From October 2014)

**James Brown**  
City of Topeka

**Trenton Brown**  
Topeka Events Center/Topeka Office Suites

**Amber Cardona**  
Thorton Place Retirement Community

**Scott Chaney**  
Reser's Fine Foods, Inc.

**Russ Cobb**  
Westar Energy

**Glenda DeBoise**  
Marian Clinic

**Gerrie Edralin**  
Ramada Topeka West

**Sara Fields**  
Senate Luxury Suites

**Lura Flentie**  
Atria Hearthstone

**John Garretson II**  
International Brotherhood of Electrical  
Workers Local Union #304

**Kim Grate**  
Famous Dave's BBQ

**Elisa Haake**  
Houck Transit Advertising

**Stephen Hawkins**  
Johnson Storage & Moving Company

**Shawn Kirby**  
Protection One

**Brett Klausman**  
Midwest Health

**Todd Knight**  
McCown Gordon Construction

**Michelle Lewis**  
Griffith & Blair American Home Services

**Jo Ann Long**  
Sheltered Living, Inc.

**Bruce McClure**  
Sac and Fox Casino

**Patrick McCrite**  
McCrite Plaza Retirement Community

**Deb McGlohon**  
Berberich Trahan & Co., P.A.

**Tim Mercer**  
Canon Solutions America, Inc.

**Stephen Mobley**  
Target Distribution Center

**Bryan Phillips**  
Mize Houser & Company P.A.

**Kim Pixler**  
Visiting Nurses

**Kristina Rosenthal**  
Budget Blinds of Topeka

**Stacie Schroeder**  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Topeka

**Amy Scriffield**  
CenturyLink

**Jarrod Simon**  
Golden Eagle Casino

**Tawny Stottlemyre**  
Community Action, Inc.

**Tim Taylor**  
Big Heart Pet Brands

**Jake Taylor**  
Youth Entrepreneurs

**Michelle Waggoner**  
MARS Chocolate North America

**Brian White**  
Auburn-Washburn USD #437

**Josh Wieland**  
Jimmy Johns Gourmet Sandwiches - North

**Janelle Wills-Sachs**  
Kirk & Cobb, Inc., Realtors

**Lance Wilson**  
American Heart Association - Midwest Affiliate

**Greg Winkler**  
Educational Credit Union

**Forrest Wright**  
PT's Coffee Roasting Company

**Julie Zerbe**  
Hill's Pet Nutrition, Inc.

# Happy Holidays



Thanks to those Chamber member firms and organizations that renewed their commitment to the growth and development of the Greater Topeka community through Chamber membership during October 2014.

## Reinvestments

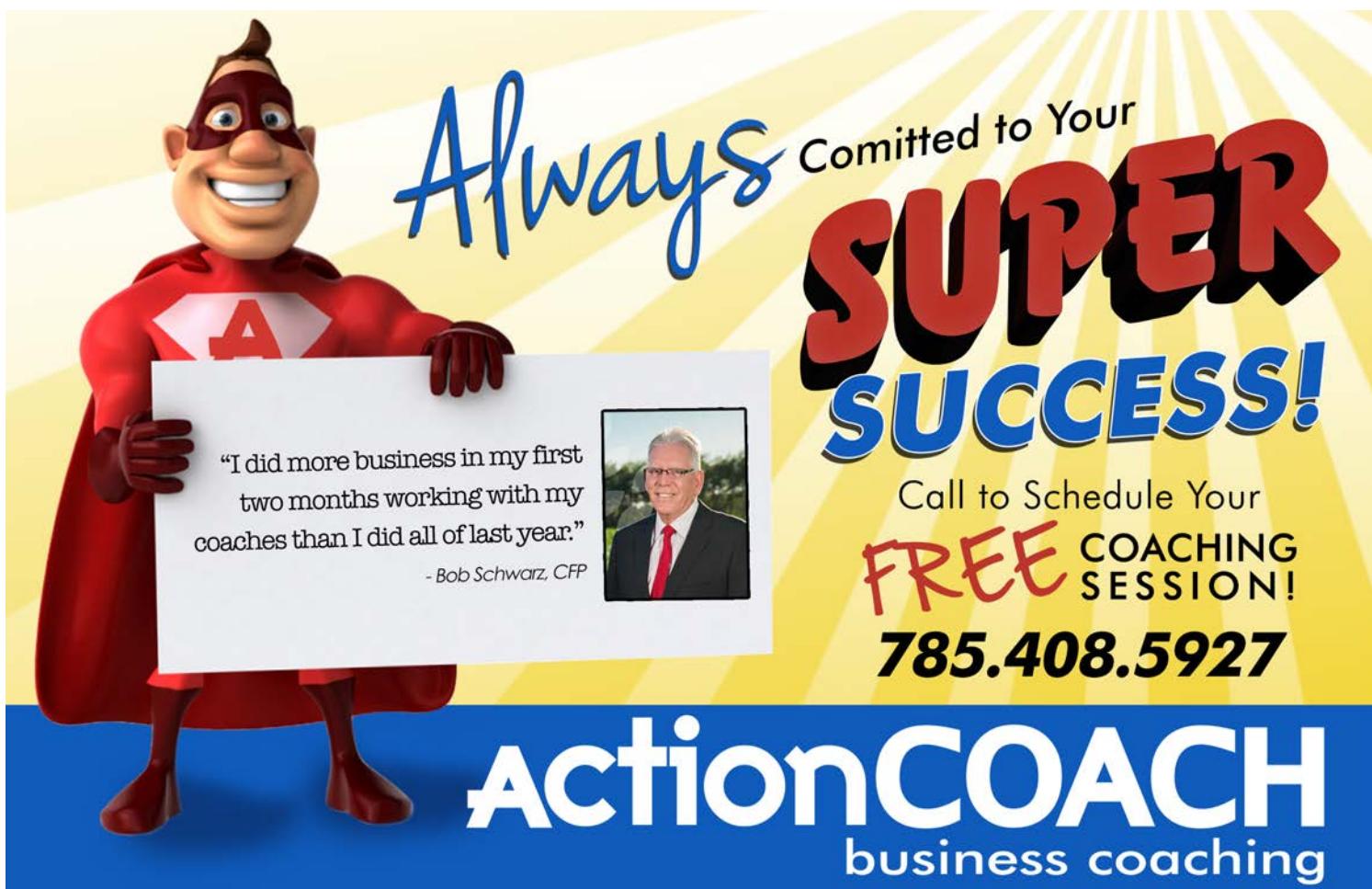
A T & T Inc.  
 Absolute Design by Brenda  
 Accident Fund Insurance Company of America  
 Air Ground Ocean  
 Allen Community College - Burlingame Campus  
 Ameriprise Financial  
 Arab Shriners  
 ARC Physical Therapy+  
 Baymont Inn & Suites  
 Big Heart Pet Brands  
 Breathe Oxygen & Medical Supply  
 Brickyard Barn Catering & Event Planning  
 Briman's Leading Jewelers, Inc.  
 Canon Solutions America, Inc.  
 Capitol Concrete Products Co.  
 Capitol Plaza Hotel  
 Claspill, Eric - Waddell & Reed  
 Cook, Flatt, and Strobel Engineers PA  
 Creative Business Solutions, LLC  
 Cruise Holidays  
 Whitney B. Damron, PA  
 The Dirty Dog  
 Elliott Insurance Group  
 Fairlawn Plaza Shopping Center  
 Foreman Chiropractic  
 G & K Services  
 Hall Commercial Printing  
 A Helping Hand Home Care

Larry Hesse Financial Services  
 Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites  
 Immediate Care & Family Medicine at Tallgrass  
 Brian Ismert - Northwestern Mutual  
 Kansas Contractors Association  
 Kansas Sand and Concrete, Inc.  
 Kaw Valley Electric Coop, Inc.  
 Kirk & Cobb, Inc, Realtors  
 Kriz-Davis Topeka Division  
 Legend Senior Living  
 LindySpring Systems  
 Lower Plumbing Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc.  
 McFarland Farm  
 Midwest Single Source  
 Penny Morgan Financial Service  
 Morris, Laing, Evans, Brock & Kennedy, Chartered  
 Nelson, Dr. David OD PA  
 Matthew Nichols  
 Protection One  
 Quality Inn  
 RE/MAX Associates of Topeka LLC  
 Red Lobster  
 Red Robin  
 Residence Inn by Marriott  
 Residential Leasing & Management Services, LP  
 Salisbury Supply Co., Inc.  
 Schwerdt Design Group, Inc.  
 Senne & Company, Inc.  
 Sharp Cars Inc - Sharp Honda  
 Simply Sarah's Catering, LLC

Sleep Number  
 Sloan, Eisenbarth, Glassman, McEntire & Jarboe LLC  
 Sovanski Photography  
 Sports Car Club of America  
 Sprout Communications, LLC  
 St. Francis Health  
 Stormont-Vail HealthCare/Cotton O'Neil Clinic  
 Strategic Solutions, LLC  
 Sunflower Bank  
 Ed Swift  
 Topeka Area Association of REALTORS Inc.  
 U.S. Bank  
 US Foods  
 Visit Topeka, Inc.  
 Visual Majesty Videography & Photography, LLC  
 Wal Mart Store #5441  
 Walgreens #4981 (Southwest)  
 Waste Management of Topeka  
 Youth Entrepreneurs

## Reinstatements

Krohe Electronics



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- Bob Schwarz, CFP



10 TopekaChamber.org

Register online @ [www.TopekaChamber.org](http://www.TopekaChamber.org)

You are encouraged to make reservations and pay for these events on the Chamber's Website at [www.TopekaChamber.org](http://www.TopekaChamber.org). (See "Register Now" in the center of the home page.)

**Power Breakfast Meeting**

Wednesday, December 10, 2014  
7:30 a.m.-8:30 a.m.  
Top of the Tower  
534 S Kansas Avenue  
RSVP Online

**Business After Hours**

Tuesday, December 16, 2014  
5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.  
Fairlawn Plaza Shopping Center  
SW 21st and Fairlawn Road  
RSVP Online

**Chamber Annual Meeting**

Thursday, January 22, 2015  
11:30 a.m. seating,  
event from noon-1:30 p.m.  
Ramada Convention Center  
420 SE Sixth Avenue  
RSVP online

**Fast Forward Networking Social**

Thursday, January 22, 2015  
5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.  
712 Innovations  
712 S Kansas Avenue  
RSVP online

**Wine & Cheese Retirement**

**Open House for Christy Caldwell & Marsha Sheahan**  
Monday, January 26, 2015  
3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
Capitol Plaza Hotel  
Emerald Ballroom III-IV  
1717 SW Topeka Blvd  
RSVP Online

\*events are free to Chamber Membership unless otherwise noted

**Register at [www.TopekaChamber.org](http://www.TopekaChamber.org)**

## Other Important Dates

### December

4 Fast Forward Steering Committee, 3:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m., Brian's house  
4 Fast Forward Volunteer Night @ Winter Wonderland, 6:00 p.m., Lake Shawnee, east side.  
5 GO Topeka Board of Directors, 7:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m., CBR  
5 Ambassadors, Noon-1:00 p.m., Hy-Vee, 2951 SW Wanamaker Road  
8 Diplomat Holiday Lunch, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., ECR  
12 Leadership Greater Topeka 2015 Class Announcement  
12 Chamber Board of Directors, 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Topeka Country Club, 2700 SW Buchanan  
17 Entrepreneurs & Ale, 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m., HHB BBQ, 720 S Kansas Avenue  
24 Fast Forward Inspire Dinner Service, 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m., Topeka Rescue Mission, 600 N Kansas Avenue  
25-26 Chamber/GO Topeka Offices closed for Christmas Holiday

### January

1 Chamber Office Closed for New Year's Day  
8 Fast Forward Steering Committee, 3:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m., Location TBA  
9 GO Topeka Board of Directors, 7:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m., CBR  
9 Ambassadors, Noon-1:00 p.m., CBR  
12 Diplomats, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., ECR  
16 Chamber Board of Directors, 7:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m., CBR  
21 Entrepreneurs & Ale, 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m., HHB BBQ, 720 S Kansas Avenue  
26 Diplomats, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., ECR  
28 Fast Forward Inspire Dinner Service, 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m., Topeka Rescue Mission, 600 N Kansas Avenue

CBR: Chamber Board Room, 2nd floor ECR: Executive Conference Room 1st floor

If mailing or faxing please check each event you would like to register for and fill in your information below.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Firm \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed  Please invoice me  
 Bill my credit card: Visa / MasterCard / Discover / Amer. Express (CID# \_\_\_\_\_)

Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_



Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce • 120 SE Sixth Avenue, Suite 110, Topeka, KS 66603-3515 • 785.234.2644 • fax 785.234.8656

*In honor of each of their 35 years of loyal service you are cordially invited to an Open House honoring Christy Caldwell and Marsha Sheahan as they retire from the Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce.*

*Monday, January 26, 2015  
Emerald Ballroom III-IV at the Capitol Plaza Hotel  
1717 SW Topeka Boulevard  
3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.*

*Please join us as we wish our colleagues and dear friends the best!*



**Christy Caldwell**  
Chamber vice president  
government relations



**Marsha Sheahan**  
Chamber vice president  
public relations

**Topeka Business**

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Editor: Marsha Sheahan



Paul Bossert, Vice Chair  
Leadership (Premier  
Employment Solutions)

## Favorite Holiday Tradition

"Home-made Mexican food for Christmas dinner with our family, and fighting over who gets to take home the remaining enchiladas."

Karla Clem, Vice Chair Marketing (M-C Industries)

"Putting a turkey in the oven and going to see a movie as it cooks!"

Jim Ogle, Chamber Treasurer  
(WIBW Channels)

"As a family we go out on the Sunday after Thanksgiving and cut down our Christmas tree and then we spend the evening drinking egg nog and decorating the tree. We still use ornaments our kids made or we bought that have special memories."

Brent Boles, Chamber Chair-elect  
(Schendel Lawn & Landscape)

— —  
Midnight Mass with family on Christmas Eve followed by opening presents with family and grandparents Christmas morning.

Allan Towle, Chair,  
GO Topeka  
(Fidelity Bank)

— —  
"Christmas Eve with the grandkids."

Randy Goldsmith, Vice  
Chair Membership  
(CBRE)

“Fondue Christmas Eve. South Texas homemade tamales on New Year's Eve.”

Scott Griffith, Vice Chair, GO Topeka  
(INTRUST Bank)



"On our first wedding anniversary my husband Robin gave me an ornament that reflected the traditional anniversary gift (1st year paper, second year cotton, etc.). He has continued that tradition every year and we have also added to the collection with ornaments from our travels or special family moments. We have an anniversary tree that when we put it up, is like a scrapbook of memories."

Coleen Jennison, Vice Chair  
Government Relations (Cox)

**GET CONNECTED**

[www.TopekaChamber.org](http://www.TopekaChamber.org)

