

APRIL 2024



Mexico Area Chamber of Commerce

# Mainstreet News

100 West Jackson Street

(573) 581-2765

Mexico, MO 65265

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## — Leadership Mexico — CLASS OF 2024

The Mexico Area Chamber of Commerce couldn't be more excited about the Leadership Mexico Class of 2024. This is a record-size class of 30. In March, the group focused on education, touring Missouri Military Academy, Hart Career Center, and Southside Christian Academy. The day ended at the Mexico Area Chamber of Commerce with a little "Chamber 101." We appreciate all of the employers who agreed to invest in their employees and support the chamber. Thank you Marissa Lightsey, our Leadership Mexico Coordinator, and Tanner Smith, Education Day coordinator.



**FRONT ROW:** Dr. Tracey Jeffries (Mexico Sustainability Project), Alisa Petty (Central Bank of Audrain County), Chelsea Baker (Commerce Bank), Amanda Crewse (Audrain County 911), Christina McCaw (Mexico Public Schools), Derek Clithero (IMS), Cary Smith (Realty 365), Rita Jackson (City of Mexico), Jennifer Nixon (The Bank of Missouri), Janice McIntosh (YMCA), and Leigh Thomas (Audrain County Juvenile Office).

**BACK ROW:** Seth Bush (First State Community Bank), Troy Vaughn (Commerce Bank), Marci Orr (Mexico Public Schools), Amy O'Brien (City of Mexico), Tiffany Dade (Melahn Insurance Agency), Greg Sewell (City of Mexico), Brooke McGuire (HOMEBANK), Dennis Houchins (City of Mexico), Lisa Snow (Presser Arts Center), Cole Hildebrand (Missouri American Water), Jamie Ballard (Job Finders), Austin Miller (Mexico Heating), Amanda Speagle (First State Community Bank), and Brock Fuemmeler (IMS).

**NOT PICTURED:** Dr. Alex Finck (Cornerstone Family Medicine), Ravae Moore (ACSRC), and Rebecca Reasons (Fluid Power Support).

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★ WILLIAM "BILL" JOHNSON ADVOCATE FOR ★  
**PUBLIC HEALTH AWARD DINNER**  
 JOIN US TO HONOR  
**OUR AWARD RECIPIENT**  
**KAY DUBBERT**  
 THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2024  
 PRESSER ARTS CENTER  
 900 S. JEFFERSON STREET  
 MEXICO, MISSOURI

Individual Tickets \$25  
 Tickets available at: <https://myACHD.eventbrite.com>  
 In person at ACHD or by calling 573-581-1332  
 Doors Open at 6:00 pm  
 Dinner at 6:30 pm  
 Program at 7:00 pm



Dress Business Casual  
 Proceeds from ticket sales support ACHD Team for Assistance

ADMIT ADMIT ADMIT ADMIT



**29th Annual**  
**GRAF & SONS**  
**MEXICO AREA**  
**CHAMBER OF**  
**COMMERCE**


 **Four-Person Scramble**

**May 31, 2024**  
 The Oaks Golf Course  
 Registration 8:00 am  
**Tee Off 9:00 am**

**2 Flights**  
 1st & 2nd places  
 awarded in each flight

**JOIN OUR MAJOR SPONSORS:**  
 BANK OF MISSOURI • CENTRAL BANK OF AUDRAIN COUNTY  
 COMMERCE BANK • FIRST STATE COMMUNITY BANK  
 HOMEBANK • MEXICO HEATING  
 PEARL MOTOR COMPANY • SYDENSTRICKER NOBBE

**MAJOR SPONSOR: \$650**  
**PREMIER HOLE SPONSOR: \$275**  
**HOLE SPONSOR: \$125**



**Central Bank**  
**of Audrain County**  
**Business After Hours**  
**April 23, 2024**  
**203 East Liberty**  
**5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

Area mail includes Audrain County, Paris, Vandalia, Perry, Middletown, Farber, Laddonia, Benton City, Wellsville, Martinsburg, Montgomery City, Bellflower, New Florence, Hatton, Auxvasse, Thompson and Centralia areas; out of town mail includes Washington, DC; Quincy, IL; Pittsfield, IL; Topeka, KS; St. Charles, MO; Louisiana, MO; Monroe City, MO; Kansas City, MO; Jefferson City, MO; Columbia, MO; Boonville, MO; Fulton, MO; Moberly, MO. Mainstreet News (USPS # 123-130) is published monthly by Mexico Area Chamber of Commerce, 100 West Jackson, Mexico, MO 65265. Periodicals postage paid at Mexico, MO. Postmaster: Send address changes to Mainstreet News, 100 West Jackson, Mexico, MO 65265.



*Refreshments will be provided*



*Please Join Us!*

# **MAINSTREET MEXICO**

## **TOWN HALL MEETING**

**Tuesday, April 30, 2024**

**4:00 pm to 6:00 pm**

**Homestead Hearth Ball Room**

**105 N. Coal Street, Mexico, Missouri**



*Volunteer opportunities  
will be explained.*

# Missouri Military Academy President Brigadier General Richard V. Geraci, USA (Ret) Selected as Association of Military Colleges and Schools of the United States Executive Committee President



Missouri Military Academy President Brigadier General Richard V. Geraci, USA (Ret) has been selected as the 2024-25 president of the Association of Military Colleges and Schools of the United States (AMCSUS) executive committee.

As president of the AMCSUS executive committee, President Geraci is responsible for setting the Association's priorities for the upcoming year. He leads the 9-member executive committee's efforts to

support the association's member colleges and schools and the 20,000 cadets they represent. AMCSUS was founded in 1914 and advocates for military colleges and schools. Members follow its military education model, which provides a structured learning environment in which young men and women thrive while gaining critical thinking and leadership skills and learning the importance of values, character, and personal responsibility. Its current membership holds 37 fully accredited military colleges, junior colleges and college preparatory schools.

President Geraci was named MMA president in February 2019. A New Mexico Military Institute (NMMI) graduate, Geraci started his career in education as the 22nd commandant of cadets and dean of students at NMMI after retiring from the U.S. Army as a brigadier general in 2005. Before MMA, Geraci was the president of Leavenworth Regional Catholic School System and principal of Immaculata High School. He joined MMA as chief academic officer in 2017 and rose to vice president for academics, operations and planning before his selection as MMA president.

A licensed school building and district administrator, he holds master's degrees in education, management, systems management and national security and strategic studies from Eastern New Mexico University, Webster University, Florida Institute of Technology and U.S. Naval War College, respectively. He earned a Bachelor of Science in management from Park University. He completed the Senior Executives in National and International Security program at the JFK School of Government and the leadership program at the Graduate School of Education, Principal's Center, both at Harvard University. Additionally, he completed the National Security Leaders course at Syracuse University and the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS) Leadership Academy at Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management.

AMCSUS selected the following executive committee officers for 2024-25:

**President:** BG Richard V. Geraci, USA (Ret)

Missouri Military Academy

**Vice President:** Col Chris Dowling, USMC (Ret)

Marine Military Academy

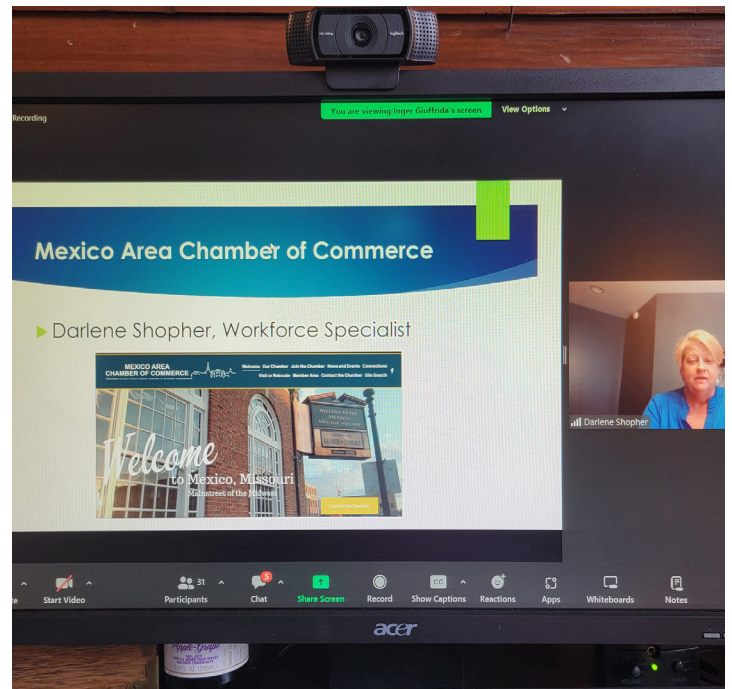
**Secretary:** Col Stu Helgeson, USMC (Ret)

Valley Forge Military Academy and College

**Treasurer:** BG Pat Michaelis, USA (Ret)

Texas A&M University

Missouri Military Academy is an all-male, college preparatory military boarding school (middle school and high school) with a diverse domestic and international student population. The Academy's rigorous program empowers young men to reach their potential as future college graduates, citizens of character, and community leaders. MMA's 360° Education® fosters academic excellence, a healthy lifestyle and physical development, leadership and life skills, positive character development, and personal motivation.



Darlene Shopper, chamber WRAP Specialist spoke to institutions all over the country about different ways to present Financial Wellness on the job site at the FINRA organization's meeting in March. Additionally she was able to share about adding an emotional wellness offering for two of our WRAP Partners. FINRA awarded the chamber a \$20,000 grant in 2022 to begin providing financial education for WRAP.

# Wildflower Walks

## AT SCATTERING FORK OUTDOOR CENTER

Add a wildflower walk to your Spring Bucket List, Sunday April 21<sup>st</sup> from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Masses of wildflowers are blooming along both our trails, trees are blooming too. Challenge to find all the flowers on the card. Our short trail is .2 mile long and the long trail is .8 mile. We welcome you to come out and enjoy them all. It is easy. We will guide you or you may take a map and find them all on your own. Along the way tree frogs are peeping, turkeys gobble and mushrooms are popping out. Deer, raccoon, and possums have left their tracks to find. We also have activities for all ages including taste violet, elderberry and wild plum jelly and pet our stuffed animals and birds.

Scattering Fork Outdoor Center, at 15640 Audrain Road 815, Mexico, MO. Call (573)581-3003 for more details. A \$2.00 donation is appreciated.



## WATER CUSTOMERS ASKED TO HELP IDENTIFY LEAD SERVICE LINES FOR REPLACEMENT

On December 22, 2020, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized the first major update to the Lead and Copper Rule in 30 years. Missouri American Water began a pilot program in the City of Mexico in anticipation of the new regulatory requirements in 2017. The pilot program involved the identification of service line material and replacement of lead and galvanized water service lines.

Missouri American Water is currently working to replace all lead and galvanized water service lines in the communities it serves by 2030. This is a voluntary goal that goes above and beyond current federal requirements. Statewide, the company will invest more than \$100 million in 2024 to identify and replace lead and galvanized service lines.

Missouri American Water is replacing the entire lead or galvanized line, including the customer-owned portion, at no direct cost to the customer. To date, Missouri American Water has replaced 530 lead and galvanized lines in Mexico, and current records show 270 lead and galvanized lines that have been identified for replacement.

The company's efforts to identify service line material

are ongoing. There are approximately 1,300 service lines in Mexico whose material still needs to be identified.

Customers own the part of the service line from their home or business to the water meter. Therefore, Missouri American Water does not typically have a record of that service line material, and any existing records may be out of date if the homeowner replaced the line.

Properties built before 1930 have the highest likelihood of having a lead service line. After that year, it became a less commonly used material and was prohibited in 1988 with Missouri's adoption of the Safe Drinking Water Act.

The only way to properly identify the material of a service line is to visually inspect it. This can be done inside the home at the shut-off valve or by digging up the line outside via hydro-excavation or potholing.

**What can you do?** Visit Missouri American Water's interactive service line inventory map, where you can **self-report your service line material** if it has not been identified or **request a professional inspection of your line material**. Your help is critical to eradicating lead service lines.



# *April 2024 Calendar*

- April 3 Chamber Executive board meeting @ Chamber – 12pm  
Elks Meeting @ Elks Lodge – 6pm
- April 4 Senior Expo @ Mexico YMCA – 9am-11am  
Mexico Noon Lions Club meeting @ Utterback Crop Insurance – 12pm
- April 6 Pixels Gamers @ Hart Career Center – 10am-8pm
- April 9 Village Square Association Meeting @ Chamber – 8am  
League of Women Voters @ Chamber – 7pm
- April 10 Chamber board meeting @ Chamber – 12pm  
Book & Art Club @ Mexico Public Library – 4-5pm
- April 11 Altrusa Meeting @ The Oaks – Noon
- April 12 Mexico Noon Lions Potato Lunch @ Courthouse Basement – 11am-1pm
- April 13 VSA Sale into Spring! Cha-Ching! @ Downtown Mexico – 10am-4pm
- April 16 Leadership Mexico – 11:30am  
Dream Factory Meeting @ Chamber – 6:30pm
- April 17 Elks Meeting @ Elks Lodge – 6pm
- April 18 Ambassador meeting, Speaker Clarrisa Cauthorn @ Chamber – 10am  
Lunch & Learn @ Chamber– 11:30am  
Mexico Noon Lions Club meeting @ Utterback Crop Insurance – Noon
- April 20 Maroon & Gold Gala @ MMA
- April 21 Wild Flower Walk @ SFOC – 2pm-4pm
- April 23 Business After Hours @ Central Bank of Audrain County – 5pm-7pm
- April 25 Altrusa meeting @ The Oaks – Noon
- April 26-28 The Musical 9-5 @ PAC – Fri/Sat 7pm, Sunday 2pm
- April 30 Main Street Townhall meeting @ Homestead Hearth Ballroom – 4pm-6pm
- Every Tuesday Mexico Kiwanis Club meets @ The Oaks – Noon  
Every month the Third Wednesday Alzheimer’s Support Group @ MO Veterans – 1:30pm  
Every Friday Rotary Club meets @ The Oaks – Noon  
Every Saturday Mexico Farmers Market @ 200 North Jefferson Street @ 9am-1pm

## ***Membership Renewals***

54 Design Group  
At Home Care

## ***New Members***

Darla Miller

# MEXICO SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION HIRES NEXT SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

The Mexico School District Board of Education is pleased to announce the hiring of Dr. Troy Lentz as the next Superintendent of Schools. Dr. Lentz will begin on July 1, 2024. As his time permits, he will be involved in preparations for the next school year.

Dr. Lentz has been Superintendent at Osceola Public Schools for two years. At Osceola, he has focused on relationships and the overall school climate. During his tenure, several capital improvement projects were completed: construction of a new track, kitchen expansion and renovation, HVAC replacement, and construction of a new greenhouse.

Previously, Dr. Lentz led the Norborne School District as Superintendent. At Norborne, Dr. Lentz oversaw the completion of a new weight room and guided extensive capital improvements after the passage of Proposition Pirates. He was also the Principal and Curriculum Director for the Harrisburg School District. He taught and coached at Osage County in Westphalia, Jefferson City Public Schools, and USD 436 in Caney, Kansas.

Dr. Lentz received his Bachelor of Science degree from Central Missouri State University. He attended the University of Missouri-Columbia, where he earned his Master of Arts Degree in Educational Leadership, his Educational Specialist Degree in Educational Leadership, and a Doctorate of Education in Educational Leadership.

Dr. Lentz will be moving to the Mexico area with his wife, Wendy, who currently teaches fourth-grade mathematics and science at Osceola Elementary. The Lentzs have been married for twenty-five years and have three children. Their son, J.T., will attend Mexico Middle School. Their daughters Laney and Savannah attend Lincoln University and the University of Arkansas, respectively.

In his spare time, Dr. Lentz enjoys spending time with family and playing bass guitar for the praise team at his church.

Dr. Lentz shared, "I am thrilled and humbled to be provided with this opportunity. I'm thankful the board allowed teachers, administrators, and staff members to be part of the interview and screening process because it allowed me to get to know a group of talented and dedicated educators. Mexico is fortunate to have folks who are proud of their town and want great things for students. My family is eager to get to town and engage with the community. We are so happy to be Bulldogs."

The Board of Education met in a special session on Monday, March 4, 2024 to select Dr. Lentz as the next school leader. The Board met in special session on March 7, 2024 to approve Dr. Lentz's contract as the district's next leader. A meet and greet for Dr. Lentz will be held prior to next school year. More information will be announced when the details are finalized.



# Sale into Spring! Cha-Ching!

**Saturday, April 13  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

Grab a passport at any participating business and then stop by each one to get your passport stamped. Leave completed passport at one of the participating businesses for a chance to win one of four **\$100 PRIZES**

Purchases made, allow for an entry into that business's special drawing.

### PARTICIPATING BUSINESSES

- Serendipity Closet
- Merchandise in Motion
- Melody's Quality Jewelry
- Merle Norman Cosmetics
- The Pearl Martini & Wine Bar
- Jim Stubblefield Furniture
- Cassie & Frances Photography
- The Old Pharmacy Ceramic Shoppe
- The Sparkly Pig
- Jason's Top Shelf
- The Cookie Club
- Kate's Hallmark
- Elly's Closet
- The Broken Cactus
- Homestead Hearth
- Fat Guys Pizza