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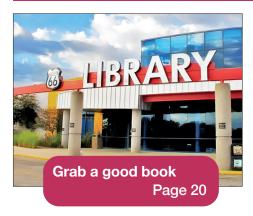
Come see us at our new location: 440 W. Elm Street, Lebanon, MO



417-991-3333



INSIDE



New to town?

We've compiled a list of important phone numbers for you.

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Visit historic Lebanon

From historic stops on the Mother Road to trout fishing at Bennett Spring.

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Remembering the Mother Road

Lebanon's Route 66 Museum attracts visitors from around the world.

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Higher learning in Lebanon

Two colleges are represented in the area: OTC and MSU.

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Wall of Route 66 honorees continues to grow

Each January, people are inducted for their contributions.

..... Page 58

Start your engines

Let's go racin'.

..... Page 66

Cover Photo by Tim Berrier: Kids Go-Kart race at the Lebanon I-44 Speedway.

Your Local Community Newspaper A Tradition in Laclede County since 1866

You can continue that tradition by becoming better connected with your community with a "traditional" print subscription plus start a new digital tradition.

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Downtown shows Yuletide spirit

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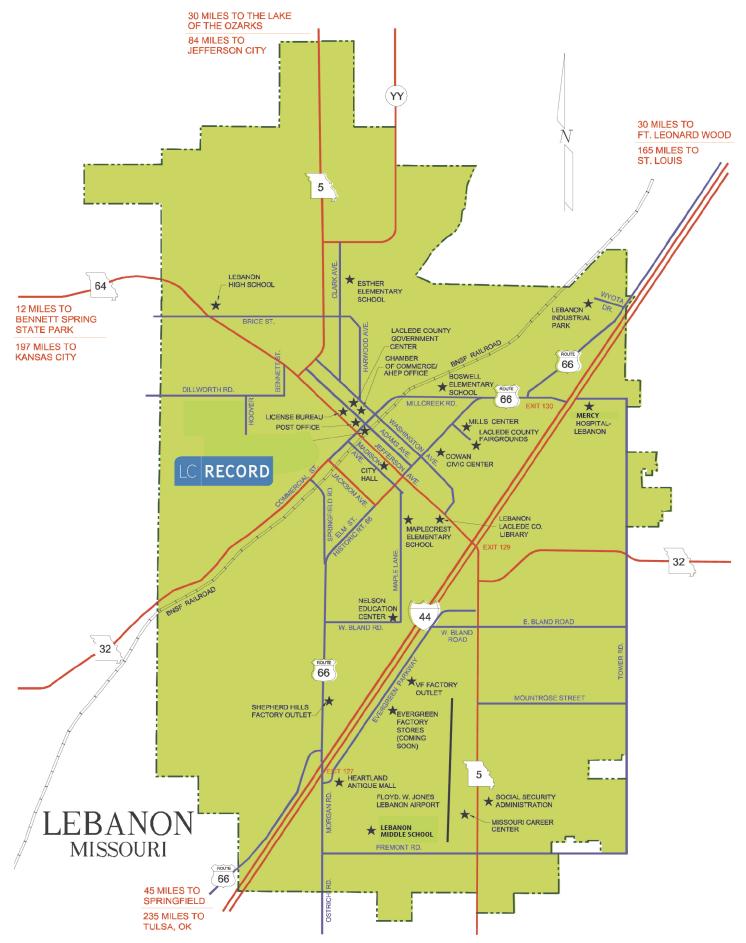




Circu 1998



417-532-9131 100 E. Commercial, Lebanon www.laclederecord.com





It is my honor and pleasure to welcome you to Lebanon. Since our founding in 1849, Lebanon has always welcomed travelers. Positioned on historic Route 66, now Interstate 44, the community rests on the northeast side of the Ozarks. As we celebrate our 175th anniversary in 2024, Lebanon, with a population upwards of 15,000, continues to grow with a strong economic base consisting of manufacturing, service, and tourism industries.

Whether staying for a day, a week, or the rest of your life, Lebanon is committed to its motto of "Friendly people. Friendly place." Once you are here, it is easy to see why.

Being labeled as the "Boat Capital of the World" is no

coincidence.
Several
manufacturers in
Lebanon
form our
economic
backbone,
produc-

ing everything from boats, housing materials, semi-trucks and even trailers. We are also home to a stave mill that crafts wine and spirit barrels shipped worldwide. Our economy has further diversified with the addition of a new ice cream factory. Embracing the Information Age, several local companies have created a high-tech marketplace for industrial machines.

Since technology has made remote work possible, Lebanon has welcomed many seeking a slower pace, lower cost of living, lower taxes, low crime rates, and great schools. The secret is getting out, and more and more people and industries are calling Lebanon home.

Lebanon is home to the premier event center in the area – The Kenneth E. Cowan Civic Center. With 128,000 square feet of space under one roof, including a 48,000 square foot exhibition hall, the Civic Center can accommodate corporate meetings, shows, conventions, weddings, and other special events.

While here, make sure to visit our Route 66 Museum located inside the library, or stop by Boswell Park, home to our Route 66 Park with three murals depicting life on Route 66 in Lebanon. Enjoy a Saturday morning at our farmers market located at The Market Pavilion.

Residents and visitors alike enjoy many shopping opportunities in our revitalized downtown, featuring boutiques, coffee shops, and restaurants. Wonderful local eateries appeal to a wide array of tastes, from steak to sandwiches to Mexican cuisine. If you are hungry, we have it all!

No visit is complete without a cruise down scenic Missouri 64 to Bennett Spring State Park. Just 12 miles from Lebanon, it houses a state-of-the-art hatchery releasing 400,000 trout per year into the beautiful Niangua River. Lebanon is perfectly located within 30 minutes of three rivers where you can float your cares away while taking in the stunning Ozark scenery.

Lebanon is the heart of the Ozarks, centrally located to Springfield, Lake of the Ozarks, and other popular tourist areas. Thank you for being a part of our community. Whether you visit or live here, you will see that our community is you.

-Mayor Jared Carr

City Hall

401 S. Jefferson Ave. Lebanon MO 65536 Ph: (417) 532-2156 | Fx: (417) 532-8388

Mayor Office Hours
Tuesday & Thursday
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
or by appointment

City Hall Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Mayor Jared Carr



NEW TO TOWN?

Here is a list of important numbers and contact information to get you started in your new home.



CITY OF LEBANON

Lebanon City Hall

401 S. Jefferson Ave. 417-532-2156

Lebanon City Utilities

401 S. Jefferson Ave. 417-532-2345

Utility Outages: 417-322-9001

Find the city online

Website: www.lebanonmissouri.org Facebook: facebook.com/CityofLeb

nonMO

Twitter: @CityofLebanonMo Instagram: @CityofLebanonMO Next Door: nextdoor.com/city/

lebanon--mo

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Lebanon Police Department

401 S. Jefferson Ave. 417-532-3131 www.lebanonmissouri.org/646/Po lice-Department



How the City Communicates

Hello, Lebanon Community Member!

The City of Lebanon embraces a diverse mix of communication methods to effectively reach all our stakeholders, from residents and business owners to developers and beyond. We understand everyone has unique preferences in how they receive information. That's why we offer a range of options – whether it's staying updated through our website, engaging with us on our Facebook page, or browsing the City calendar. We encourage you to explore these tools to stay informed about the latest news, events, and programs. Your active participation in choosing how you get your information helps us serve you better.



PRINT

- Lebanon Magazine: Eight-page newsletter mailed to all residents twice yearly.
- Postcards: Direct mail pieces sent citywide or to select residents/businesses as needed.
- Letters: Correspondence sent citywide or to select residents/businesses as needed.

DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS PRINT PUBLICATIONS

- www.lebanonmissouri.org: The City's website updated with information for each department and division including outgoing news updates
- Lobby TVs: digital ads in City Hall.
- www.visitlebanonmo.org: The latest in local events.



ADVERTISING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

- Radio/Print Ads
- Press Releases
- Partner Outreach (School District, Lebanon Area Chamber of Commerce, Lebanon REDI and Friends of the Fort)



PHONE AND TEXT

· NIXEL Text Emergency and Community Alerts Website updates texts or emails - jobs, news, alerts and more.



IN PERSON

- Police Outreach: Visit the police department
- Board Meetings: Board or commission meetings are open to stakeholders to learn more and share input
- City Hall: Stop by City Hall to chat with a staff member
- Townhall Meetings Two Wards annually have townhall meetings.



Follow the LPD on social media at www.facebook.com/LEBPD

Laclede County Sheriff's Office

240 N Adams Ave. 417-532-2311 lacledecountysheriff.org

Follow the LCSO on social media at www.facebook.com/LacledeCoSheriff

Lebanon Fire Department Station 1 Headquarters

370 N. Adams Ave. 417-532-2104 www.lebanonmissouri. org/269/Fire-Department

Lebanon Fire Department Station 2

2071 S. Jefferson Ave. 417-532-2104

Lebanon Fire Department Station 3

1300 Ivey Lane 417-532-2104

Follow the LFD on social media at www.facebook.com/ LebanonCityFire.

In the case of an emergency, you should call 911.

Text Alerts Residents can get emergency situation and weather updates through text messages. To sign up, visit www.lebanonmissouri. org/569/Nixle-Registration.

COURTS/OTHER GOVERNMENT SERVICES

Lebanon Municipal Court

401 S. Jefferson Ave. 417-533-5400

Laclede County Government Center

Home to county government offices and the Laclede County Court 200 N. Adams Ave. 417-532-5471

Lebanon License Center

219 N. Adams Ave. 417-532-5075

SERVICES

Missouri Job Center

2639 S. Jefferson Ave. 417-532-6146

Lebanon Area Chamber of Commerce

500 E. Elm St. 417-588-3256

Dish Satellite TV

1-800-803-3388

DIRECTV

1-855-690-9884

CenturyLink

877-862-9343

Fidelity Communications

417-991-2800

Earthlink

1-800-217-6231

Ozark Fiber

1-866-696-9275

WASTE DISPOSAL

Green For Life

417-426-5001

Republic Services

417-522-1377

Smith's Dash Trash Removal

417-286-3333

RECYCLING

Laclede Industries

641 Utah St. 417-588-3241

SOCIAL MEDIA

*The General City X account is used on a limited basis.

- LinkedIn
- Nextdoor
- Facebook
 - General City
 - Police
 - Parks and Recreation
 - Cowan Civic Center
 - Downtown Lebanon
 - Lebanon Fire Department

- Floyd W. Jones Lebanon
 - Regional Airport
- X (Twitter)
 - General City*
- Instagram
 - General City
 - Downtown Lebanon
- Tik Tok
 - General City



- Billboards
- Event Banners

getconnected

- Light-pole Banners/Flags
- LED signs at City Hall and Cowan Civic Center



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Text "Hello" to (844) 771-INFO (4636)

or visit lebanonmissouri.org





Conveniently located on Interstate 44, 43 miles to Lake Ozark, 47 miles to Springfield and only 36 miles to Fort Leonard Wood.

Lebanon Area Chamber of Commerce

Lebanon Area Chamber of Commerce

500 E. Elm Lebanon, Mo. 65536 Ph: (417) 588-3256

or (888) 588-5710 chamber@lebanonmo.com

lebanonmissouri.com

Welcome to Lebanon, Missouri, nestled in the heart of Laclede County. As the appointed executive director of the Lebanon Area Chamber of Commerce, I am thrilled to introduce our thriving community! Our chamber is a dynamic organization committed to fostering growth and prosperity by forging valuable connections among businesses and residents in meaningful ways.

We invite you to explore the captivating charm of our historic Downtown area, where the essence of our rich past gracefully intertwines with the vibrancy of the present. Immerse yourself in a tapestry of local businesses, unique shops and an array of exceptional dining experiences. Stroll through picturesque streets lined with historic architecture and feel the energy that emanates from our bustling community.

Embrace the natural beauty and recreational opportunities that await you at Bennett Spring, where scenic landscapes and outdoor activities abound. As you delve into Lebanon's connection to the iconic Route 66, you'll discover the echoes of a bygone era, providing a

glimpse into the nostalgic allure of America's

find a perfect blend of history, culture and community spirit, making it a truly special place to live, work, and play. Together, let's embark on a journey of collaboration, innovation and boundless opportunities that await in our enchanting



Ashley Mahan, Executive Director



Providing shelter from the storm

When inclement weather strikes, Lebanon has four storm shelters for public use that were added in recent years.

Storm shelters are available to the public outside of school hours. Current shelters include Lebanon Middle School, Maplecrest Elementary School, Joel E. Barber School and Boswell Elementary. Maplecrest and the Middle School are designated as storm safe rooms. Boswell and the Joel E. Barber School are Federal Emergency Management Agency-certified storm shelters.

Follow the City of Lebanon on Facebook and watch social media for updates as to when the shelters are open. Residents are also encouraged to sign up for emergency alerts by texting LEBANONMO and/or LACLEDEMO to 888-777.



Construction was completed on the storm shelter at Maplecrest Elementary during the summer of 2021.

Lebanon Middle School 2700 Buzz Pride Drive

Please enter the south entrance (behind the school) during inclement weather.

Joel E. Barber School 16050 Hwy KK

Please enter the south side FEMA Gym.

Maplecrest Elementary School 901 Maple Lane

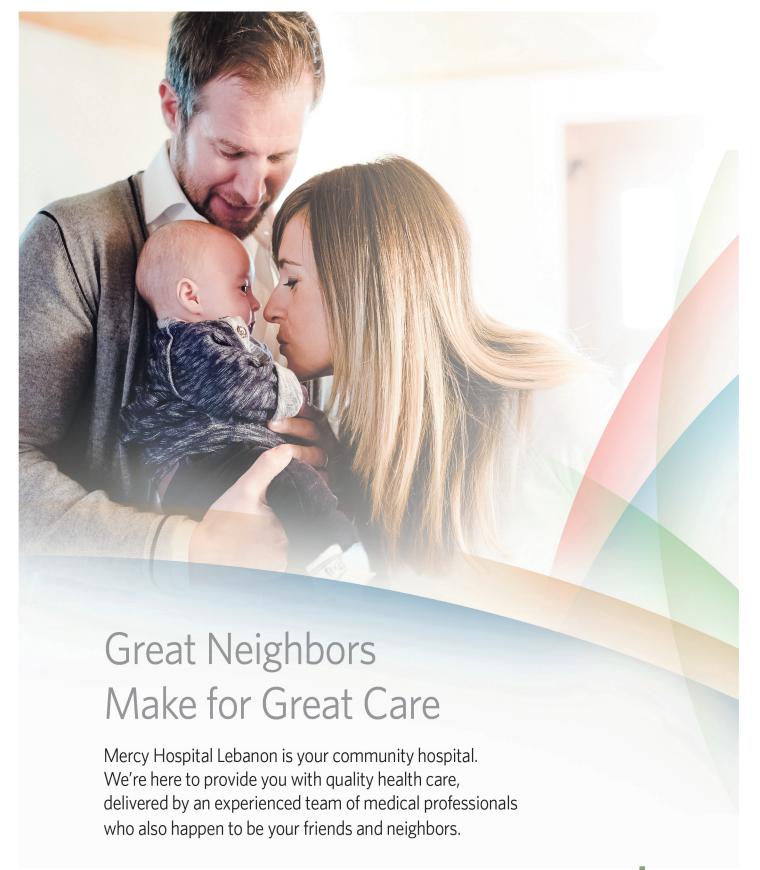
Please enter the new gym at the school.

Boswell Elementary 695 Millcreek Rd

Please drive to the back of Boswell Elementary and follow FEMA signage.

Shelters will be opened when a tornado warning has been issued or if local officials feel the need is warranted.







Scan to see the full range of care we offer right here in Lebanon, or visit mercy.net/LebanonNeighbors



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Festivals celebrate Route 66



The Route 66 Festival attracts attention in Lebanon each June with a parade through town, classic cars, vendors, and bands filling Boswell Park, followed by evening festivities. In 2024, the festival featured the Branson Baldknobbers.

Route 66 Society President Bruce Owen noted in a society retrospective that he was pleased with the turnout in 2024, which was the second to be sponsored by Lake Regional.

"Another one for the books," he said. Community feedback is what lets Owen know whether the festival is a success.

"When everybody's happy and you hear a lot of people compliment you and when some of the vendors ran out of food and they had to get more and people tell you how much fun they were having and how well organized it was," Owen said.

Planning for the following festival begins shortly afterward with the Route 66 Society's monthly meeting.

"We try to improve it every year. It just takes a tremendous amount of time and ideas and planning. We're just going to keep making it better every year," Owen said.

The society plans to make 2026's festival, which will mark the centennial anniversary of Route 66, a special one. "We appreciate everybody that came and participated. We're open for any suggestions. We're just a bunch of old people that want to make the people of Lebanon and surrounding areas happy and have a good time."

One person who had a good time at



one of the festivals was car collector Terry Maggard from Pleasant Hope.

"I love doing it. I love showing my truck and talking to people. It's just fun," Maggard said.

He and his son, Johnny, brought a grabber blue 1950 Ford pickup Terry purchased at a Springfield swap meet in 1988.

"It's all modernized-tilt wheel, 5.0 with overdrive, car front end, disk brakes, power steering. It's got all the goods anyway," Maggard said.

He said he kept the body mostly original. The changes were to make it a

drive-anywhere ride.

Maggard is more than just a car guy. He is a Route 66 fan.

"I've done a lot of Route 66. I've been to 'standing on the corner in Winslow, Arizona.' I've gone that far. I haven't really gone too far east, but I will. One of these days I'm just going to take off in this old truck and see where I end up," he said.

In the meantime, he has Route 66 themed events to attend and several vehicles to customize.

Visit historic Lebanon

Laclede County offers everything from historic stops on the Mother Road to trout fishing at Bennett Spring

If you're shopping, antiquing, fishing, tubing, camping, hiking, swimming, golfing, dining, sightseeing, fueling your need for speed or just floating your cares away, Lebanon, Missouri, and Laclede County is the place for you!

Home to more than 15,000 residents and several native pioneers of industry, Lebanon is conveniently located directly on Interstate 44, positioned perfectly in the scenic Ozarks of south-central Missouri. The Lebanon and Laclede County area offers a wide variety of indoor and outdoor amenities to fit just about any event need. The City of Lebanon alone is home to eight parks, encompassing over 100 acres. Located within these parks are disc golf, baseball/softball fields, basketball courts, paved





walking trails, several playgrounds and 11 shelters. Boswell Aquatic Center in the Route 66-themed Boswell Park is a notable gem in the community that features several pieces of Route 66 history in Lebanon. The Kenneth E. Cowan Civic Center is the crown jewel of our area. This multi-purpose center will accommodate conventions, trade shows, expositions, sporting events, theatrical productions and business meetings. Come enjoy a demolition derby, bull-riding, gospel music concert, county fair, gun show or even a community garage sale in our Cowan Civic Center.

The YMCA is housed in the Cowan Civic Center as well and is one of the largest not-for-profit community service organizations in the Ozarks. It is equipped with a gymnasium and a large multi-purpose sports facility, which includes an NCAA-approved lap pool and a tennis court.

Lebanon is a great place to visit

Our historic downtown features many unique shops and is growing and renewing daily.

Lebanon also has many options for "retail therapy." Shepherd Hills Factory Outlet is the world's largest dealer of



top-selling Case knives. The huge store offers Ozark walnut bowls and a vast selection of home décor items. The Heartland Antique Mall is the largest between Joplin and St. Louis with more than 250 dealers and an exotic cheese outlet. The area also has numerous other family-owned antique stores, which are sure to have the perfect vintage treasure

for your collection.

Lebanon was an important stop along Historic Route 66, and Boswell Park, located on the historic route, is themed to recognize that designation. The park is home to three larger-than-life murals featuring historic images of the route and hosts an annual Route 66 Festival each June that features a parade,



live entertainment, family games, vendors and more. Historic Route 66, often romanticized as the "Mother Road," inspires thoughts of days gone by and simpler times. Some may see Route 66 as a link to our parents and grandparents. Others perhaps feel the sense of freedom that the road provided to those early travelers.

Most of the original auto courts and cafes are long gone, but a few sites still exist such as the Munger Moss Motel, the newly revitalized Wrink's Market and The Manor House Inn. All can still be visited along the historic highway in Laclede County. Along with driving the "Mother Road," you can learn more about the historic route in Lebanon's world-renowned Route 66 Museum and Research Center.

If cars are your thing, and you like fast ones, you'll love our options for racing action! Lebanon Midway Speedway is our local dirt track that lights up on Friday nights between April and September. If asphalt racing is your preference, be sure to check out Lebanon I-44 Speedway on Saturday nights throughout the summer months. There's more than one way to feed your need for speed in Lebanon!!



Lebanon is also conveniently located near Bennett Spring State Park. The pristine beauty of the park is a natural attraction. In addition to world-class trout fishing, this popular and scenic park offers 12 miles of hiking trails, Niangua River float trips, an interpretive center, a rustic dining lodge, hatchery tours, cabins and condos, or you can just pitch up a tent. Whatever your preference, you will find dozens of campgrounds

and RV parks throughout the area. No matter when you visit, we will welcome you with open arms. Lebanon, truly a friendly place with friendly people. For more information, visit our website at www.VisitLebanonMO.org.

Rebecca Rupard Lebanon Tourism Director



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Fun activities in Lebanon



417 Sports Cards 22993 Professional Lane Suite I 417-531-1201

B&B Lebanon Ritz 8 Theatre 925 S Jefferson Ave 417-588-9724

Tap That Indoor Mini Golf 2500 Evergreen Pkwy 417-991-3383 Boat Town Brewing 214 W Commercial St 417-532-2772

Boswell Aquatic Center 1205 Kent Dr 417-588-2401

Bowlmor Lanes Rt 66 1331 E Route 66 417-532-4262

CCYDNE Hobbies Tabletop Games 545 E Elm St 417-532-1049

Great Life Golf & Fitness 16744 Hwy 64 417-532-2901

Laclede County Library & Route 66 Museum 915 S Jefferson Ave 417-532-2148

Mama's Ceramic Workshop 25785 Hwy 5 517-480-2420

Massey's Comics 110 W Commercial St 417-532-0652

The Castle Courtyard 311 N Madison Ave 417-532-7168

YMCA 500 E Elm St 417-588-1177

Antique Stores

Another Time Around 586 N Washington Ave 417-322-0150 Buffalo Wallow Antiques 26200 Pennington Dr 417-288-2476

Dark Horse Antiques and Design 105 N Monroe Ave 417-533-4441

Heartland Antique Mall 2500 Evergreen Pkwy 417-532-9350

Mister Eclectic Antique and Vintage Décor 300 W 2nd St 417-208-8556

Rt 66 Antiques & Marketplace 17711 Campground Rd, Phillipsburg 417-532-7082 The Cowlick Dry House 433 E Elm St 417-718-2676

The Rusty Rooster Marketplace 208 W Commercial St 417-718-9136

Treasures 1060 Tower Rd 417-532-6666

Vintage in Blooms 568 Lynn St 417-664-0864

Find more info about Lebanon's parks on page 46





2440 Evergreen Pkwy, Lebanon, MO 417-232-4700

Also Located in Lockwood | Rogersville | Mtn Grove | Joplin | Branson

Lebanon is 'REDI' for economic development

Lebanon REDI

Inside Lebanon City Hall 401 South Jefferson Ave. Lebanon, Mo 65536 Phone: 417-533-5627 brian@lebanonredi.com lebanonredi.com

Despite an ever-changing economic climate, Lebanon and Laclede County continue to have a partner at the forefront of the challenge - Lebanon Regional Economic Development, Inc. (REDI).

REDI was created in 2004 as a public-private partnership to serve as a lead partner in the economic development process for Lebanon and Laclede County. A 501(c)(6) not-for-profit organization, REDI's core mission is "to strengthen the Laclede County economic base and increase the standard of living of all first to residents through retention, expansion, attraction and development of primary jobs and capital investments." REDI is funded by public support from the City move

as from private financial contributions.

"REDI would cease to exist without the amazing leadership exhibited by our city and county officials coupled with incredible support from our local business community," said Brian Thompson, REDI's President and Chief Executive Officer. "They have stayed the course from the best of times to economic challenges that we have all had to work through.

We are beyond grateful for their support."

Thompson said that the challenges faced throughout the years also provide opportunity.

"You have to learn as things progress," he said. "There was once a 'build it and they will come' mentality. Now you must

in the opposite direction. You need to attract or enhance the workforce

sometimes work

of Lebanon and Laclede County as well here or to convince an existing business that you are still the right place for them to remain or expand."

> Important areas that REDI places a focus on are workforce development, partnerships, and leadership enhancement.

> In July 2019, REDI became the administrative partner for the Greater Ozarks Centers for Advanced Professional Studies (GOCAPS) Lake Region program. Juniors and seniors from participating high schools can "test drive" careers in the

> > fields of manufacturing, engineering, business, entrepreneurship, health care and teaching professions as part of the program. GOCAPS allows students to leave the traditional classroom setting and work directly with area businesses in a variety of ways to earn first-hand experiences that they otherwise would not have access to. Thompson said that this

approach is developing the future workforce in innovative ways. He noted that GOCAPS facilitators

Brian Thompson

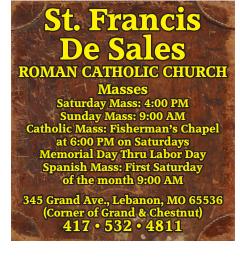


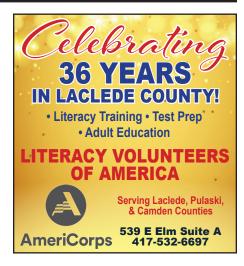
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Sara Light, Joey Bowling and Daniel Peregoy, as well as former facilitator Craig Blair and past program coordinators Ann Hopper and James Kincheloe, deserve much credit for their work in making the program a success for students since its inception during the 2017-18 school year.

REDI has also been involved in other workforce development initiatives including career fairs at Lebanon Technology and Career Center (LTCC); active engagement with students at Hillcrest Education Center and the Jobs For America's Graduates (JAG) program; and support of new programming at Lebanon's higher education institutions – Ozarks Technical Community College (OTC) Lebanon Center and Missouri State University. REDI additionally works with state economic development partners on programming to support local businesses and industries.

"We do our best to help companies in whatever capacity is needed," said Thompson. "Sometimes it is as simple as helping obtain letters of support for a new project. In other cases, we may help companies go through the process of receiving incentives and working with the City of Lebanon and other partners in those instances. It really is a case-by-case and need-by-need approach. We want to do what we can to remove the barriers to success for those we work with."

REDI staff also worked to develop and manage the 9-month leadership program known as "Leadership Lebanon," that will help the community enhance future leaders to grow Lebanon and Laclede County

for the future. The program is in its fifth year and is the result of a collaboration between REDI and the University of Missouri Extension Service (MU Extension). For the 2024-25 Leadership Lebanon term, the Lebanon Area Chamber of Commerce has joined the effort as a key partner with plans to begin spearheading

for the future. The program is in its fifth the program's operations in 2025-26.

The REDI office is located inside Lebanon City Hall at 401 South Jefferson Ave. For more information on the organization, contact Thompson at (417) 533-5627, by e-mail at brian@lebanonredi.com or visit www.LebanonREDI.com.







PROUD TO BE LEBANON & LACLEDE COUNTY'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNER SINCE 2004!



417-533-5627



401 South Jefferson - Lebanon



www.LebanonREDI.com



Brian Thompson

Lebanon-REDI President/CEO brian@lebanonredi.com







Supporting our emerging workforce...



Greater Ozarks CAPS Centers for Advanced Professional Studies

LAKE REGION

GOCAPS Lake Region is an educational experience giving high school juniors and seniors the opportunity to learn in a real world environment made possible by a collaboration of education and business partners. For more information, visit www.GOCAPSLakeRegion.com



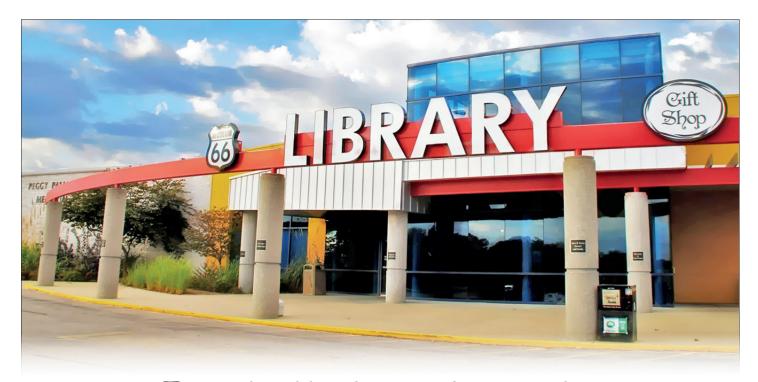




Available to students in the following school districts... Conway Laquey Lebanon

Richland

Lebanon-REDI is a proud partner of the GOCAPS Lake Region program!



Read all about it at the Lebanon-Laclede County Library

The Lebanon-Laclede County Library is located at 915 S. Jefferson and is home to a large collection of books, the Route 66 Museum, and the Kinderhook Treasures gift shop.

More than 20 years ago, a group of donors got together to transform an abandoned K-Mart into the biggest library that Lebanon had ever seen.

Every year, the library grows its selection. It is home to over 100,000 items, according to Director Tina Chaney, and that does not include all the items that can be borrowed through online e-book lending services or from library-to-library

borrowing.

There is wireless internet service, books on tapes, large print books, DVDs, videos, a children's room and many research resources, like those found in the Missouri Room, the hot spot for genealogists and history buffs.

The Missouri Room houses obituary books published by the Laclede County Historical Society. These include obituaries for Laclede County residents, invaluable resources for anyone seeking clues about their ancestors. Marriage records and cemetery record books compliment that research, as do copies of published family histories.

There are two volumes of the Laclede County History and the 1888 Goodspeed history of the county that includes biographies of prominent residents and original settlers.

A photocopier and microfilm reader-printers are available for patrons or visitors at the library's cost.

The library subscribes to Heritage Quest, an online genealogical database that carries all U.S. censuses, as well as lists of books and articles about family history and images of Revolutionary War pension records. Library cardholders have free access. Visitors can log on with the library's computer for three







hours with a \$2 visitor's card.

The Missouri Room microfilm collection, freely available, contains all Missouri census records and many rolls of microfilmed local newspapers, including the Laclede County Republican, the Lebanon Rustic-Republican and all editions of The Lebanon Daily Record and Laclede County Record.

Three reader-printers are available for researchers at library cost and upon request.

There are also old editions of the Lebanon High School Magnet yearbook and Polk City Directories for many years.

Besides genealogical materials, the room

is full of books and magazines containing Missouri and Ozark history. There are Missouri Blue Books, official manuals, dating from 1889 to the present. There is also a four-volume "Ozark Folksongs," a collection by Vance Randolph that was published in the 1940s.

Bestselling books by authors with an Ozark connection are also located in the room. There is "Shepherd of the Hills," written by Harold Bell Wright while he lived in Lebanon, and the "Little House" series, written by Laura Ingalls Wilder, who lived at nearby Mansfield in Wright County.

The room is ideal for researching Missouri with information on caves, the capital, flowers, archeology and geology and other subjects.

The library is also a place for fun educational programs for all ages, from adult oriented lectures to events for teens and children. Children and their parents regularly attend Story Time in Andy's Reading Room, where they sing, read, and make arts and crafts.

Refurbished in 2024, the Children's Room features shelves of books and other activities. Every year, the library





PROFESSIONALS HIRE THE

XOU NOTICE! correctly...





Children and their parents sing "The Itsy-Bitsy Spider" with assistant director Erica Semsch in Andy's Reading Room during story time.

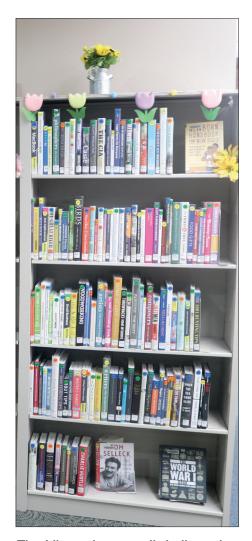


The four goals of the Lebanon-Laclede County Library: Inform, Inspire, Educate and Entertain.



The interior of the Kinderhook Treasures giftshop.





The Library has a wall dedicated to new books.

sponsors a themed summer reading program for children from the first of June to the end of July.

For highway and map enthusiasts, there is a complete library of road maps, dating from the 1900s to the present.

The library is also home to the Route 66 Museum, which tells the local history of the Mother Road, and the Kinderhook Treasures gift shop, which is filled with numerous unique items.

The building is also accessible to those with disabilities, and the state library-facilitated Wolfner Library program is available to those unable to read standard print material due to various factors, as noted on the secretary of state's website.

"We hear over and over from nonlocals how impressed they are with our library," assistant director Erica Semsch said.

More information about the library is available by calling (417) 532-2148 or visiting the website at www.lebanon-laclede. lib.mo.us.







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Remembering the Mother Road



Visitors from all over the world come to Lebanon as they travel the famed Mother Road.

Many of them learn more about the history of Route 66 with a visit to the Route 66 Museum.

Located in the Lebanon-Laclede County Library at 915 S. Jefferson, the museum is one of the first to be devoted entirely to Route 66.

Erica Semsch, Assistant Library Director and Museum Manager, noted that the museum is celebrating its 20th year of celebrating Route 66's local history at the library.

"Our one-of-a-kind museum pays homage to some of our local Route 66 business-owners and their stories through our several vignettes and exhibits," Semsch said, "The informative displays break down the details of life along the Mother Road at its peak and later as it became part of history."

The museum originated in 2004 when the library moved from a smaller building into its current location, which was once a K-Mart building. The move allowed the library to have more space than before with some to spare. Route 66 Society member Bill Wheeler had some ideas on what the facility could do with that space, which included the museum.

"Bill Wheeler had the vision," Semsch said.

People come from Germany, England, Australia, and other countries to the museum, and that doesn't include visitors from across the United States.

"We had visitors from all 50 states last year, including Hawaii and Alaska," Semsch said.

She noted that many people do not know the significance of the Mother Road.

"Luckily our community has embraced that history over the years," she said.

Highlights of the museum include displays of a gas station, a diner and tourist cabin that would have been found along Route 66. A glass case display describes the different kinds of pavement that road builders considered using. There is also a display devoted to the Good Roads movement which led to Route 66.

The museum's Kinderhook Treasures gift shop features candles, books, jewelry, prints and anything else related to Route 66.

The history of Route 66

The museum reflects the history of Lebanon as an important stop for tourists on

Route 66. One of the very first motels along the highway was Camp Joy, which opened in 1927 as a tent camp at a rate of \$0.50. Later, cottages and a combination gas and grocery store.

The dirt road had changed very little from its beginnings when it carried Union troops during the Civil War to the battle at Wilson's Creek. The only major change to Lebanon and its dirt highway had been after the Civil War when the railroad caused the village to move about one mile to the southwest from its original location.

Shortly after the turn of the century, the old road eventually received an upgrading of gravel that made it more passable during rainy weather and was later given the number 14 by the State of Missouri.

This served travelers until 1922 when the State Highway Commission proposed a new permanent highway running to and across the Ozarks.

The original proposal for the route was to wind its way from St. Louis to Rolla and then take a southerly path through Houston and Cabool and then on to Springfield by the direction that Highway 60 would later follow. The highway engineers of the time thought the route to Waynesville, Lebanon and Marshfield was too hilly, and too many rivers would need to be bridged. Historians say this decision would have been devastating for the towns along the more direct route.

The community leaders of several towns, including Lebanon, led trips to Jefferson City to lobby the Highway Commission for a decision that favored what was called the "Direct Route". A few of the Lebanon leaders met the skeptical engineers at the Gasconade River to show them a path that would cross the hills and rivers of Laclede County with only a little more work and money.

As a result, the route via Pulaski, Laclede





and Webster counties was chosen. Construction was done in sections, with the distance from the Laclede County line at Hazelgreen to Mill Creek Road in Lebanon being the first to be paved with concrete. A meeting was hosted at the Woodruff Building in Springfield, and as a result, 66 was chosen for the new road from Chicago to Los Angeles.

Route 66 became a part of American culture over the years.

The publication of John Steinbeck's "The Grapes of Wrath" helped launch the route to fame. The novel follows the Joad family as

they head to California to flee the Dust Bowl via Route 66. The book coined the term "The Mother Road" in reference to Route 66.

The Mother Road was also referenced in popular culture with the 1960s television show, "Route 66", and the 1946 hit song, "(Get Your Kicks On) Route 66".

Route 66 served Lebanon and Laclede County from 1926 until December 4, 1957.

U.S. Route 66 was officially removed from the United States Highway System in 1985 after it was entirely replaced by segments of the Interstate Highway System. The road remains a popular tourist attraction.









Chamber director celebrates first year of service

A year into her role as Executive Director of the Lebanon Area Chamber of Commerce, Ashley Mahan and her executive administrative assistant, Christina Knight, have seen growth come to the organization in terms of new members and community interactions.

"I see a lot of potential with the Chamber, and we're moving in the right direction," Mahan said.

Each day looks different for the pair, and their docket can have events ranging from meetings with potential members, volunteering, organizing networking luncheons, or facilitating ribbon cuttings for community businesses.

"I live by my calendar, because you never know where you're going to find us," Mahan said.

Mahan noted that in addition to marketing opportunities, the Chamber also helps businesses with educational material and networking. One element that Mahan and Knight are proud of is the Chamber's continuing efforts to educate the community about what it does.

"It's exciting to see that, and to see that lightbulb moment," Knight added.

Knight spends a significant amount of her time organizing referrals for Chamber members and other residents. Having previously worked for the R-III School District, Knight appreciates the opportunity to work in an environment she had previously had few interactions with.

"It's exciting, and it's a neat, different world to be in," Knight said. "I love working with businesses and helping promote what they have going on."

Both Knight and Mahan agreed that the Chamber team and those they shared their office with, such as the Lebanon Area Foundation and the Lebanon Department of Tourism, are great, and their shared space allows them to access additional resources for their members.

"Like I said, if we don't know the answer, we know who does," Mahan said.

Mahan and Knight see opportunities for growth in upgrading programs like ChamberMaster, which will allow the Chamber to more easily send its members invoices. Mahan noted the positive feedback she has seen in the Chamber's efforts to increase community partnerships.

"It's been remarkable. Honestly, I have felt so much support from the entire community and all of the organizations in our community," Mahan said. "Everyone's great to work with, and I feel like we can really make a difference together."

Mahan also noted that the Chamber's ribbon cutting ceremonies are not just for the opening of new businesses but also to celebrate milestones for existing ones.

"We love doing them because we love celebrating our members," Mahan said.

Events for the Chamber include the annual announcement of the Chamber's Wall of Honor recipients, the September 14 Business Expo and the Chamber's participation in the Christmas parade and pageant. Ribbon cuttings and other events

Christina Knight, Executive Administrative Assistant



Ribbon cutting at Summit Natural Gas with SNG members, Chamber of Commerce members, and other community members. Ribbon cuttings, Mahan explained, can be held for a variety of events, such as the opening of new locations.

are held throughout the year.

Lastly, Mahan wanted to emphasize that the Chamber is not just for the City of Lebanon but its surrounding communities, such as Stoutland and the Lake region, as well.

"We try to touch on outside of the city as well because those people are very important to our community," Mahan said.

The Lebanon Area Chamber of Commerce can be contacted through their website, via email at chamber@lebanonmissouri.com, by calling 417-588-3256, or by visiting their office at 500 East Elm Street. The Chamber also operates a Facebook page as well as a newsletter.

"Our mission is to connect the community and try to enhance the business life in our community," Mahan said, "And I think we're on the right track."

Ashley Mahan, Executive Director





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Step back in time and immerse yourself in the quaint charm of Lead Mine, a haven where the clock seems to have stopped decades ago. Located approximately 3.5 miles east of Tunas, Missouri, Lead Mine is a vibrant hub of the Old Order Mennonite Community. Here, the pace of life slows down, and modern amenities take a backseat to simpler, time-honored traditions.

As you venture into Lead Mine, leave behind the buzz of modern technology—there's no need for your cell phone here. Instead, come prepared with cash or a checkbook, as many businesses in this community operate without electricity, preserving an authentic slice of the past.

What awaits you in Lead Mine? Picture rows of stalls brimming with wholesome delights: bulk foods that evoke memories of family gatherings, fresh summer produce straight from the fields, and vibrant flowers and bedding plants to brighten any home. If you appreciate craftsmanship, you'll find yourself drawn to the handcrafted furniture that speaks of quality and tradition. And don't miss the opportunity to savor freshly baked goods that carry the aroma and taste of recipes passed down through generations.

A visit to Lead Mine promises more than just shopping—it's a nostalgic journey back to your grandmother's era, where every purchase tells a story and every interaction carries the warmth of a community united by shared values and heritage. Whether you're seeking to reconnect with simpler times or simply longing for an adventure off the beaten path, Lead Mine offers a memorable experience that celebrates the beauty of tradition and the richness of rural life.





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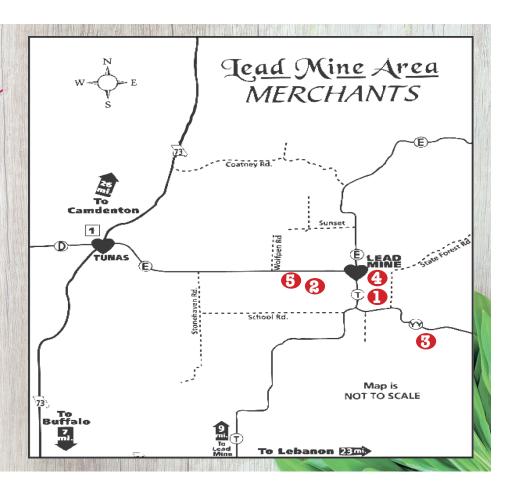
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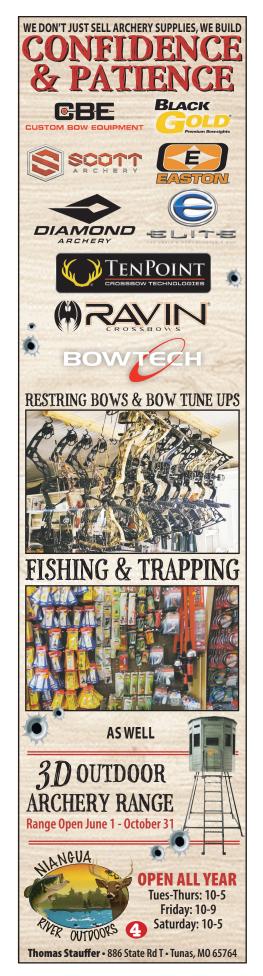
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Public Schools

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Lebanon R-3 Central Office

224 W. Commercial St. Superintendent Dr. David Schmitz

Phone: 417-657-6001 www.lebanon.k12.mo.us

Joe D. Esther Elementary

1200 Clark Avenue Pre-K-1st grade Phone: 417-657-6002

Maplecrest Elementary

901 Maple Lane 2nd and 3rd grades Phone: 417-657-6003

Boswell Elementary

695 Millcreek Road Fourth and fifth grades Phone: 417-657-6004

· Lebanon Middle School

2700 Buzz Pride Dr. Sixth through eighth grades Phone: 417-657-6005

• Lebanon High School 777 Brice St.

Grades nine through 12 Phone: 417-657-6006 Office hours: 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday

Lebanon Technology and Career Center

757 Brice St. Grades nine through 12 Phone: 417-657-6007 Office hours: 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday

Hillcrest Education Center

301 Hoover St. Grades nine through 12 Phone: 417-657-6008

Office hours: 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday

Other Laclede Schools

• Joel E. Barber C-5 16050 Route KK Grades pre-K to eighth Superintendent: Rachelle Jennings Phone: 417-532-4837

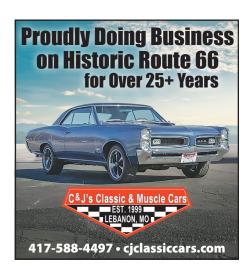
Gasconade C-4

32959 Route 32 in Falcon Grades pre-K through eighth Superintendent Jim Bogle Phone: 417-532-4821

Laclede County R-1

726 W. Jefferson Ave. in Conway Superintendent Mark Hedger

Phone: 417-589-2951





Higher Education

Degrees can be earned from Missouri State and OTC

Although Lebanon is a relatively small town, students with big city university ambitions can fulfill their dreams without ever leaving their community.

Ozarks Technical Community College and Missouri State University both have campuses in Lebanon and offer a variety of programs.



OTC LEBANON Dusty Childress



MSU LEBANON Gib Adkins

MSU and OTC

Thanks to a partnership between Ozarks Technical Community College and Missouri State University, Lebanon students can receive a four-year degree in many fields, including elementary education, criminal justice, communications and general studies.

MSU, which used to be locally housed at the Nelson Education Center, moved into the OTC Lebanon Center's Reuben and Mary Lou Casev Hall.

The hall is named after its 2010 donors,



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MSU LEBANON At OTC Lebanon

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in the summer of 2013 and opened up for classes the following fall. OTC, which offered a two-year associate's degree, will now be able to give its students an option to continue into a specific degree program.

"Basically what it is going to do is allow the students to have easier access, where they can interact between both schools





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and end up not only graduating with an associate's degree but also at least a bachelor's degree," said Gib Adkins, outreach coordinator for MSU's Lebanon operations.

While MSU students could achieve a bachelor's degree from MSU at the Nelson Education Center, they couldn't do it with the ease that they will be able to at OTC, Adkins added.

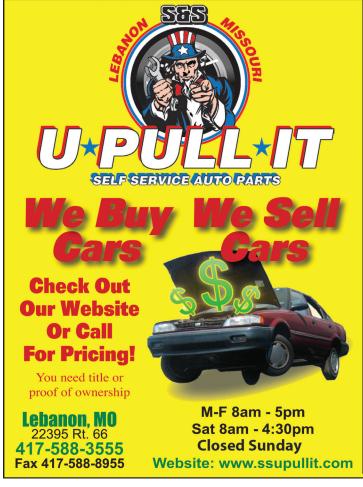
"This is going to give a seamless transition from your freshman year on forward with our close partner, Missouri State University," OTC Chancellor Dr. Hal Higdon said when the partnership was announced.

The area that MSU moved into was a previously unfinished area of the campus. An open warehouse space was converted into

six additional classrooms, restrooms and an office area.

MSU offers classes in the form of traditional classes and iTV (interactive TV) classes. The iTV classes allow students to interact in real time with a professor in Springfield or 1 of 14 other locations in 4 states who is teaching through a video that is streamed to Lebanon.







Saturday 8:00am-Noon

The City of Lebanon has a plan

The city is celebrating the approval of the Lebanon 2040 Comprehensive Plan. This plan, approved by the City Council on June 10, 2024, serves as a guide for the identification and implementation of Lebanon's unified vision for its future. It builds upon the community's values and points Lebanon in the direction of its shared goals using a variety of tactics.

The Lebanon 2040 Comprehensive Plan addresses critical topics that will shape the way Lebanon continues to develop, including:

Future Land Use: Recommendations based on input from stakeholders, the public, the Zoning and Planning Commission, City Council, and city staff members, along with findings from the Economic and Market Analysis.

Housing: Future options and opportunities to balance and diversify the existing housing stock.

Economic Development: Strategies that encourage a vibrant, healthy mixture of revenue generation sources.

Transportation and Mobility: Opportunities that enhance connectivity and mobility for residents and visitors.

Recreation and Entertainment: Enhanced options designed to improve residents' quality of life and work within existing environmental conditions.

Sustainability and Resiliency: Woven throughout all recommendations to balance community desires, financial feasibility, and environmental needs.

Community Health and Equity: Strategies for improving the health, equity, and vibrancy of the community at large, from individual physical and mental health to social support systems, resources, and gathering opportunities.

MOVING FORWARD FOR SUGGESS

This Plan is a living document that will guide our city's growth and development. It

reflects the needs and desires of the community and provides a framework for the development of future public policy related to development, redevelopment, transportation and connectivity, and the provision of community services and amenities. The council and city staff will work to achieve the goals set forth in this comprehensive plan.

For more information, visit www. lebanonmoplan 20240.com.



Meet the chief

Jerry Harrison came to Lebanon as the new police chief in April 2024.

Harrison said the city reminds him of the town where he grew up.

"This is like coming home for me," he said. "I was born in Rolla and I grew up in Carthage and Monett. I'm Ozarks born and raised. It reminds me of Monett, it's just a lot bigger."

Harrison was previously the police chief for the Independence, Kansas Police Department for seven years and has been in law enforcement for a total of over 26 years. He has been a member of the Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police Board of Directors, including serving as its president, and was a member of the Kansas 911 Coordinating Council.

Harrison earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Missouri Southern State University and a master's degree in criminology and criminal justice at Missouri State University.

Harrison said he has enjoyed his job. "I've got a really good team around me. They have a strong ethic and a great attitude. They want to serve the community well," he said. "We have trainers and educators on our team. They don't want to just come into work and put in 40 hours. They come into work and they're part of the organization, making it better. We have folks here who are going out and developing their leadership and education. That makes our organization

stronger and the stronger our team is,

the better we can serve our citizens."

Harrison said the department is

constantly seeking improvements in crime prevention and traffic safety.

Harrison said he is working to put processes in place to serve citizens well. He said he is working on evidence-based approaches to prevent violent crime and property crime, prevent car crashes and work on crime related to drug addiction and mental illthose choices to try to find a way to make a living. One of the approaches to preventing crime is connecting people with the resources that can help them make better choices."

He said the department has a strong relationship with the community.

that, never take it for granted and always work to make that relationship better,"

"We just want to grow

tionship bette he said.

"I don't want to live in a community where we try to arrest our way out of problems. I want the maximum compliance with the law with the minimum intrusion into people's lives," he said. "A lot of people involved in crimes, if they had other resources, they may not make

Lebanon Police Chief Jerry Harrison





Police announce community efforts

The Lebanon Police Department has announced the launch of the "Community Support Initiative," a comprehensive program aimed at addressing homelessness, mental health, and addiction in our community. This initiative underscores our commitment to safety and support for all residents, including business and property owners impacted by violations of pedestrian safety and trespassing ordinances.

Police Chief Jerry Harrison emphasized the importance of community involvement in thoughtfully and purposefully addressing these situations. "This issue is not unique to our community. Many violators of these ordinances are often individuals struggling with homelessness, mental health issues, or addiction. We are not criminalizing homelessness; we are preventing criminal behavior, no matter who commits it. Our goal is to provide these individuals with the necessary support and resources to address the root causes of these challenges," Harrison said.

Providing Solutions Through Community Support

Chief Harrison stated, "We are partnering with local organizations to identify and implement the most effective ways to serve at-risk communities. By working closely with these organizations, we aim to provide comprehensive solutions to the problems of homelessness and mental illness that affect both citizens and property owners."

Compassionate Enforcement and Resource Referrals

"Our approach begins with compassion and support," Harrison explained.
"Initial contacts with individuals violating pedestrian safety and trespassing ordinances will focus on providing resources and referrals to local organizations that can address their needs. We believe that offering help and support is the first step towards



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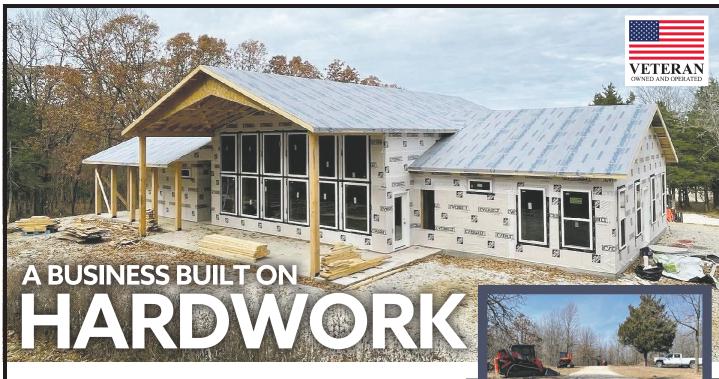




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positive change. However, continued violations may lead to enforcement actions to ensure community safety."

Supporting Property Owners

Harrison acknowledged the concerns of property owners regarding loitering, panhandling, and trespassing.

"To address these issues, we are enforcing relevant ordinances and accepting letters of enforcement from property owners, which authorize the police to take action against trespassers," he said. "Property owners can use signage to indicate no loitering or trespassing and submit a Letter of Enforcement to authorize police intervention. Forms are available at the Lebanon Police Department."

Pedestrian Safety Ordinance

"For the safety of pedestrians, our

ordinance forbids individuals from being on medians and in the roadway except to cross," Harrison said.

"Pedestrians cannot approach cars, and drivers cannot offer anything to pedestrians. Violators may receive citations to prevent unsafe behaviors such as panhandling in the roadway. There are exceptions for charitable organizations that undergo safety training and obtain a city permit."

Encouraging Community Support

"We encourage residents to volunteer or donate to reputable local organizations through the Lebanon Area Foundation, which supports local initiatives addressing homelessness, mental health, and addiction," Chief Harrison advised.

"Direct giving often perpetuates unsafe behaviors and does not help individuals improve their situations," he added. "Visit lafcares.org to learn more about available organizations and their specific missions."

Residents are also urged to guide individuals experiencing homelessness to contact these organizations or the Lebanon Police Department for assistance.

"By connecting them to appropriate resources, we can provide meaningful support and foster a more compassionate community," Harrison said.

"We can't arrest our way out of this problem. We are partnering with local organizations to provide supportive services that can change lives if people make the choice," Harrison emphasized. "Together, we can make Lebanon a safer, more compassionate place for everyone."

Fire Department installs smoke detectors



Most fire fatalities are a direct result of not having a working smoke detector in the home. As reported by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the U.S. Fire Administration: More than 4,000 Americans die each year in fires and approximately 25,000 are injured. These numbers do not include emergency personnel. Most fire fatalities occur in the middle of the night when resi-

dents are asleep.

The City of Lebanon Fire Department will provide and install as many smoke detectors as necessary to city residents who meet certain requirements by appointment. Smoke detectors are provided through grants and donations to the Lebanon Fire Department for installation.

If you would like further information regarding smoke detector numbers and locations

in your home or if you would like to make an appointment to have a smoke detector installed in your home, please call the Lebanon Fire Department at (417) 532-2104.

Note: Besides smoke detectors it is also recommended to install carbon monoxide detectors on each level of your home as well as an escape ladder for multi-story homes.





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Fighting fires for 30 years

Lebanon Fire Department Chief Sam Schneider has spent most of his professional life in the fire service. It is a career choice that has given him a lot of satisfaction.

"I very much enjoy the job. I am appreciative of the challenges that it provides and the brotherhood of the emergency services and the fire service. Here in my own community, I hope to improve and build a department that responds to the needs of the community, citizens and visitors coming through here. It takes a lot of work, a lot of time, a lot of dedication, and I truly enjoy all of it," Schneider said.

He spent years rising through the ranks of the fire service on his way to become the chief.

Following his 1988 graduation from Lebanon High School, he began his career in the fire service in October 1989 when he joined the Lebanon Rural Fire Department as a volunteer. His reasons were twofold.

"I was, in all honesty, in a word, bored," Schneider said. Schneider was working as a computer-aided drafter after graduation and wanted something interesting to do on nights and weekends. Plus, he was looking for a way to give back to the community where he was raised.

By the time he left Lebanon Rural in

1995, he had risen to the rank of assistant chief, an unpaid position at that time.

He became a licensed EMT through a program at Breech Medical Center. He left his drafting job for an EMT job with Breech Paramedics and began training to become a paramedic, working briefly for Breech.

He left Lebanon in December of 1995 for a job in the Kansas City metropolitan area as a firefighter-paramedic for the Fort Osage Fire Protection District outside of Independence, Mo.

He also worked part-time for the Sni Valley Fire Protection District in Oak Grove.

At the same time, he was volunteering with the Lake Lotawana Fire Department and teaching for the University of Missouri's Fire and Rescue Training Institute and another training program elsewhere.

He worked at the Fort Osage Fire Department for over two years before he began working for the city of Liberty for another two years before leaving for Belton to be a full-time training officer.



Lebanon Fire Department Chief Sam Schneider









TH. 11AM-9PM • FRI.-SAT. 11AM-10PM • SUN. 11AM-8:30PM









Lebanon has many great restaurants to enjoy a meal with your family and friends. From fast food to sit down dining, you're sure to find just what you're craving.









Looking for something fresh?

Everything from homemade bread to fresh vegetables to locally raised beef for sale at Lebanon's Farmers Markets

The Lebanon Farmers' Market has been a local staple for years, but it got a facelift thanks to a \$264,000 project approved by the Lebanon City Council in 2020.

Instead of just having the Farmers' Market in the parking lot at the intersections of Jefferson Avenue and Commercial Street (at the railroad crossing), vendors and shoppers now get to hang out in the shade of a pavilion.

Kate Bolden, manager of the Lebanon Farmers' Market, has been preparing for a busy spring and summer at the market.

Customers can begin buying a wide variety of fresh vegetables, meats, goods and even some crafts when the Lebanon Farmers' Market opens for the season. Vendors will be selling fresh flower and vegetable bedding plants, bramble plants and berries, farm fresh eggs, home-grown (some pesticide free) produce, heirloom vegetables, pastured pork and beef, baked goods, raw honey and some crafts. The market is a producer-only market, so the vendors will be selling products that they made or grew themselves.

The outdoor market is located across from MFA on Jefferson Street next to the railroad tracks. Market hours are from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesdays starting in April and ending on the last Saturday in October.





Route 66 Farmer's Market

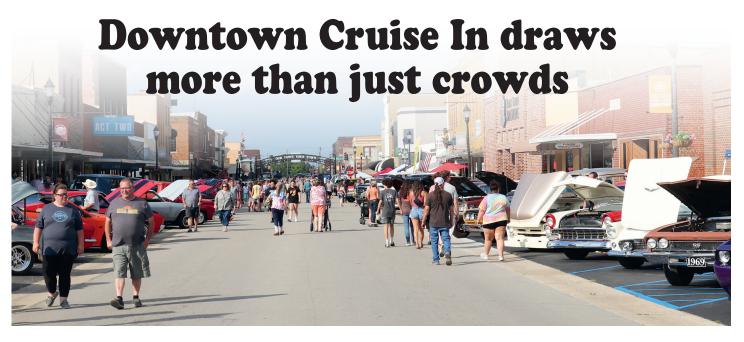
Lebanon has a second farmers' market at 1300 Millcreek Court, near the Cenex gas station.

It features plants, produce, heritage pork, beef, eggs, handmade applesauce, beef jerky, baked goods, and honey.

The Route 66 Market also features the Power of Produce Club program, which provides incentives for children to learn more about agriculture.

The market schedule is May-October, Tuesday 2 a.m.-6 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.





It does not take long to discover what brings crowds to Commercial Street for Downtown Lebanon's Cruise In, in June.

Sarah Angst, Executive Director of Downtown Lebanon, spoke on the success of 2024's Cruise In.

"The Downtown Cruise In was a fabulous event again this year. Downtown

Lebanon is so thankful to Mercy Hospital for sponsoring the event again and for doing so much to bring our community together. We had fabulous weather, wonderful crowds, and amazing volunteers. There were more cars this year than we could have hoped for, and we are grateful to everyone who came to show off their

rides," Angst said.

Some attendees come for the classic cars, but others come for the shopping experience. Food trucks, cornhole games, community contests and music.

"The Dad of the Year Competition was another favorite event, and this year's winner was Jon McCubbin," Angst said.

Angst noted that many community businesses and organizations came together to make the event a success, including Mercy, the Route 66 Society, the City of Lebanon, the Police and Fire Departments among others.

"We cannot wait to bring this event back next year and to make it even bigger and better than ever!" Angst said.







City celebrates continued progress

The City of Lebanon is celebrating progress while addressing some big challenges, Mayor Jared Carr said in his annual State of the City remarks.

Mayor Carr presented the program at a Lebanon Rotary Club meeting in February.

"Since I took office in 2017, the city's path has been one of growth, resilience and community," Carr said. "We work every day to make Lebanon an even better place to live, work and play. I am optimistic about our future and confident that, together, we will continue to rise to new heights."

Carr said the city's citizen and business satisfaction surveys which started in 2018, show a 12 percent improvement in less than six years. The number places it in the top 25 percent of U.S. cities, beating the national satisfaction average by 18 percent, Carr said.

"This achievement, particularly in the wake of a global pandemic, speaks volumes about our resilience and the quality of our staff," Carr said. But Carr said the city also faces some challenges that were pointed out in the surveys.

"Addressing the flow of traffic and congestion, enforcing city codes and ordinances, and improving our stormwater management system are at the forefront of our action plan," Carr said. "While addressing housing needs has also been a priority, the strides we've made are significant and ongoing." Carr said the city has made some big strides in the past year, including the arrival of three new indus-

tries at the Lebanon Industrial Park. He said the city is seeing expanding business opportunities.

"Notably, the Ice Cream Factory has made significant strides in renovating the old Mid Am Dairy facility, a site that had laid dormant since the 90s. This project has not only beautified the area but also led to improvements in infrastructure to accommodate the expected increase in traffic and tourism. This paved the way for more attainable housing in this neighborhood, creating the opportunity to address storm water issues in the area," Carr said.

He also pointed to the opening of the new Lake Regional Clinic in Lebanon and the Lake regional surgical center now under construction.

"In the realm of retail and dining, Lebanon is becoming increasingly attractive, as evidenced by the recent announcement of Big Whiskeys coming to the west side of our city. This addition highlights our ongoing efforts to create an environment that welcomes new business," Carr said.

The mayor said citizen feedback has prompted the city to invest heavily in street improvements.

"This past year alone, we overlaid more than 16,000 linear feet of roadway, significantly improving both the quality and safety of our streets," Carr said. "While maintaining smooth roads remains a priority, we are also working diligently to address the concerns at the intersection of Hwy. 5 and Fremont. A study is currently underway to explore

ways to improve this intersection. Once the study is complete, we hope to partner with MoDOT to make this intersection safer for our residents." Carr said the city has also obtained funding for sidewalks at Beck and Ivey streets.

Carr said the city is working with the Lebanon R-3 School District, Ozarks Technical Community College and other educational institutions to develop customized training programs.

"We're not just partnering in a traditional sense; we're actively engaging with local factories and businesses to develop customized and individualized training programs. We are working to educate the workforce they need. This proactive approach ensures that our workforce is equipped with the skills and knowledge needed to thrive in today's job market. In addition to these workforce initiatives, we've also partnered with Lebanon R-3 to make much-needed storm shelters available for our community," Carr said. The city has demonstrated its respect for veterans with several projects, including street crossings Downtown that honor each branch of the armed forces.

He thanked city staff and the City Council for their efforts to improve the community.

"With each step we take, we are creating a Lebanon that is not just about where we've been, but where we're going — a place of continuous growth and opportunity," Carr said.

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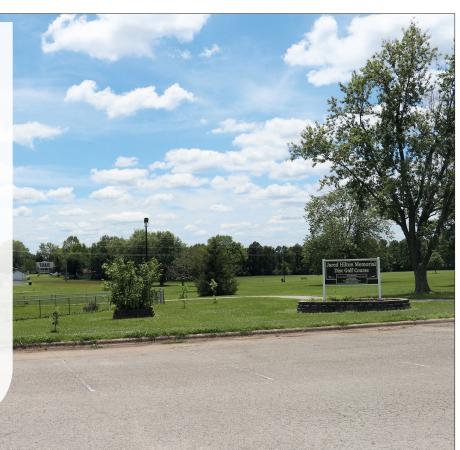
Families can relax and have fun at any of Lebanon's parks that feature everything from swimming to baseball. The city's Park Board continues to work on facility and walking trail improvements to further enhance the parks.



Atchley Park

Just off North Hwy 5 next to the Church of the Nazarene, Atchley Park features:

- Two lighted shelters with 20 amps of electric each
- Jared Hilton disc golf course with 36 holes
- Pickering Pavilion which is lighted with 20 amps of electric
- Zach's House, which is a lighted gazebo with 20 amps of electric located off the Indian Creek entrance of the park
- Andy's Pavilion, which is lighted with 20 amps of electric located between the ball fields
- · One-mile paved walking trail
- Four baseball/softball fields with spectator seating, concession stand, and restrooms
- · Batting cages
- · Fenced playground
- · Soccer field
- · Dog park













Boswell Park

Originally known as Maplecrest Park, this area now bears the name of its largest benefactor. It is located on Historic Route 66, and in 2016, the park began its transformation into a tribute to Lebanon's Historic Route 66 heritage.

After a donation from the Boswell family, the park changed names. The family donated \$100,000 in the late 1970s to provide matching funds to build the outdoor pool. It was then named after James E. Boswell, Jr. (1937-1955).

The park includes four shelters for picnicking and restrooms.

It also has a well-utilized one-mile walking trail. It also includes two lighted

tennis courts, and outdoor basketball court and a disc golf course.

The crown jewel of the park is the Boswell Aquatic Center. The pool complex, located inside the park, is complete with two 26-foot water slides, a kiddie pool, a main pool, shade structures and a renovated bathhouse. Since the aquatic center opened in May 2008, thousands of pool-goers have lined up to splash around in the cool water.

The original pool was built in the 1970s and had undergone little in the way of improvements in 30 years of public use. A \$1.1 million pool project included the renovation of the earlier facilities and the addition of several new

pool features.

The renovation was funded by the Capital Improvement Tax that was approved by Lebanon voters in February 2007.

Originally, the Route 66 theme project was intended as a small "pocket park" inside Boswell Park, but in the summer of 2015, the Lebanon Park Board decided to expand the project to make the rest of Boswell Park 66 themed as well. The refurbished park includes three 10-by-20 foot Route 66-themed murals, a replica Route 66 foundation, one of the park's shelters, and a Route 66-themed playground.











Gasconade Park

Located at Fourth Street and Harrison, this park was Lebanon's first. Many locals will remember it for its swimming pool, the Gasconade Hotel and the old baseball field that used to lie there. According to the park's history, "the park currently houses the Hughes Senior Center, for which the city donated land. The park has a quarter-mile walking track dedicated to Emma LaBlank, who has a long history of serving food to senior citizens in the area. A second shelter house was built on the foundation of the original bathhouse of the old pool. Gasconade Park provides green space for neighborhood children and areas for picnicking for young and old alike."

Gasconade Park also features shelters, a playground, a basketball court, and a newly added skatepark that was built in October 2021.

Lebanon Parks Director John Shelton decided to plan to build the skatepark after the sale of Nelson Park, the home of the former skatepark. The pursuit of the new park was led by former Councilman Josh Ray and a group of citizens. A new skatepark was built with construction concluding in October.

According to Shelton, the new skatepark has helped bring back the love of the sport and made it more accessible in the city.

During an interview with the Record, Shelton recalled the city's old skatepark,

stating that the new one is a significant improvement and more professionally done.

"We did the best we could, and it worked well for the time, then we got the opportunity to sell Nelson Park. A new skatepark was part of the plan," he said. "We originally planned to put a skate pad down, new lights, and the old equipment back up.

"I think the concrete was a great change; I was not necessarily in favor of concrete to start with. I thought the metal was better. I was wrong, but I'm not a skater. The concrete is really neat. It's a wonderful little park, and it's lit, and it's got picnic tables," Shelton said.





Coffee, Convenience, Crafts: a month of opening and reopening businesses in Lebanon

In Lebanon, we have businesses big and small, and they are always on the move. Below are three examples of how our businesses stay active and involved in our community.

Café Judes, one of several coffee shops in Lebanon, recently moved its storefront to Downtown, where visitors can take a seat and eat in a historic building that has been a bank, jewelry store and boutique. The new venue also contains a rentable event and overflow space located next door. Jude's also hosts community events that they post on the store's Facebook page.

"It's a blossoming community down here, and I'm excited to be part of it," said Rachel Starnes, who operates Jude's with her husband, Matt, regarding the move.

A new scrapbooking store opened this summer and goes by the name of Snicklefritz Boutique. Located off South Monroe Ave and run by two sisters, Jill Ambrose and Andrea Lewis, this store also has a rent-



The convenience store reopened June 15 with Chamber of Commerce members. staff and community members in attendance for the ribbon cutting.

able space for working on personal projects and takes custom orders in addition to selling supplies.

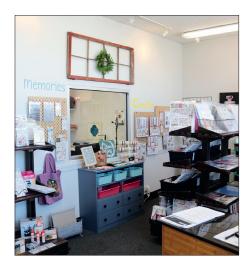
"When we were trying to figure out a name, we need something cute and catchy," said Ambrose. "Our grandma...always called

us Snicklefritz." After choosing the name, Ambrose and Lewis learned that the word is German for "ornery child".

Champion Express, a beloved gas station in the community located in the Walmart shopping plaza, reopened to the rumble of



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Snicklefritz also hosts craft classes and has a rentable space for shoppers to work on personal projects.



The interior of Jude's Downtown location. Visitors can examine the old bank vault door farther inside that now decorates one of the walls.

classic cars and live music in early June as the business's fans joined in on the ribbon cutting.

"I'd like to thank the community for their continued support. We're back, with new management, proud to be supporting the community. We're not going anywhere," said Michael Plaster, Evergreen Operations Manager.

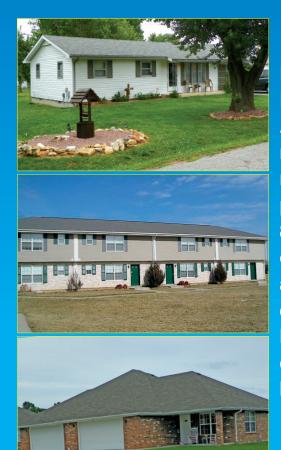
These business profiles represent a fraction of business life in Lebanon. To see more businesses in the community, just take a few steps down Jefferson Ave or Elm Street!



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Fun at the fair

The Laclede County Fair arrives the second week of July every summer

Each year in July, The Laclede County Fair Board brings a week of excitement to Lebanon.

The fair includes livestock exhibits, a carnival and other events through the day at the Laclede County fairgrounds in Lebanon, with the carnival opening up each night.

In 2018, the fair was able to begin using the Agriculture Legacy Building. The building has long been a dream of the fair board.

"I don't know of any other county fair in the state that has a facility like this," said Fair Board President Glen Raef.

Through the week, area youth show animals that they have raised that range from cows to rabbits. The competition portion of the week culminates with a market sale where people can bid on the winning livestock.

Inside the Mills Center, attendees can view works from the various art and Home Ec competitions that take place throughout the week.

In 2024, the fair brought back the Miss Laclede County Fair pageant, where four different age categories can compete. The winner of the oldest category, Miss Laclede County Fair Queen, can compete in the Missouri State Fair.

The fair also hosts nightly events. From





the Ranch Rodeo to Church Youth Nights, there is a variety of events for attendees to choose from. Competitions at the rodeo include trailer loading, branding, sorting, and a calf scramble for children.

First place in the Ranch Rodeo receives belt buckles, second place gets breast collars, and third place earns prize money.

Other events throughout the week usually include tractor and truck pulls, draft horse pulls and drag races.

Judging begins in the middle of the week with the market sale on Thursday night.

When they're not attending the nightly events, people can enjoy a wide array of rides and attractions at the fair's carnival. Carnival rides open every night. Most nights require a carnival wristband, but for select nights like opening Saturday's Community Night, attendees can get in free.

Another fair tradition is Senior Day at the Civic Center. It is held each year in conjunction with the fair. Local government agencies and businesses will have booths filling the center.

Raef said he has been involved with the fair all his life and had started showing

livestock there as a kid.

He says the chance to help youth is one of the things that has drawn him to the fair.

"I like the fact that we're helping kids with their projects, and we're teaching them responsibility through FFA, 4-H, the Home Ec part of it," he said. "It gives them a chance to show off what they've accomplished with their projects."

The week-long fair begins and ends with a fireworks show.







Our Little Downtown

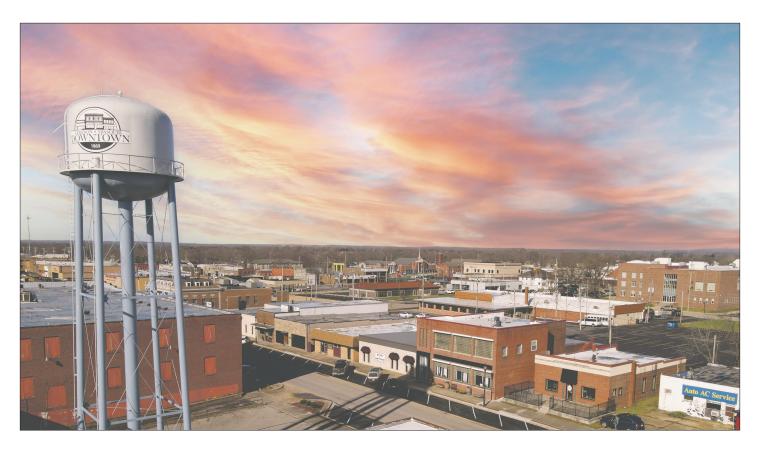


The Downtown district's gateway arches welcome locals as visitors alike to the events and stories that Lebanon's heart facilitates.

The arches, which include the city's motto, "Our Town, Your Town," welcome visitors to a district where new businesses make their homes in the historic buildings that line the street. From coffee shops to boutiques, from ice cream shops to bars, Downtown pro-







vides a variety of businesses for visitors to discover.

First Fridays, which are on the first Friday of each month, businesses extend their hours, community organizations visit with residents, and live music fills the evening air. The mood often spreads past the core of Downtown, with other musicians setting up shop across Jefferson Ave.

Some of the businesses present operate event spaces which the community can rent out, and several public offices,

such as Lebanon R-III School District's Central Office and the post office, are within walking distance.

Creatives can find a home in the Lebanon Art Guild, which has its gallery on Commercial and facilitates art work sales during First Fridays.

Many of the community's traditional events are tied in some way to the Downtown District, from the Downtown Cruise In to December's Christmas on Commercial.

With the Laclede County Courthouse

within walking distance, residents can swing by Commercial for a meal after wrapping up paperwork, and visitors can join them after looking at the historical artifacts inside the courthouse's walls.

For Lebanon, the Downtown District is not simply a collection of old buildings. It is a gathering of aspirations, dreams, and moments that business owners, residents, and visitors share with one another for a short while under the arches.



Wall of Route 66 honorees continues to grow

Each January during the Lebanon-Laclede County Route 66 Society's annual membership meeting, more people are honored for their contributions by being inducted into the Laclede County Route 66 Wall of Fame.

The Wall of Fame honors "those who made exceptional contributions to the development or promotion of Route 66

or who operated legendary businesses in Laclede County, Missouri." The Wall of Fame plaques are displayed at the entrance to the Route 66 Museum at the Lebanon-Laclede County Library.

Beginning in 2022 with a class of five honorees, the Route 66 Society has continued the tradition since. Honorees are selected by a committee with knowledge of local Route 66 history, and additions to the Wall of Fame are made annually.

The 2024 Wall of Fame inductees are J. Floyd Caffrey, Marie Williams, and S.W. "Sim", Barney and Marie Harris., with a brief description taken from their plaques.

J. FLOYD CAFFEY

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Wire Road that proceeded Route 66, Caffey created a grocery store, café and filling station on the new route. As the community that sprung up around his businesses became known as Caffeyville, Caffey continued to add innovations like rental houses and a campground.

Caffeyville ceased its physical existence in the 1950s after the state bought and razed the town to pave the way for the construction of Route 66.

MARIE WILLIAMS

Williams was the operator of several hotels in her lifetime, including both the El Rancho and Holiday Motel on Lebanon's Route 66. She served on Missouri's Tourism Commission for six years and received a citation of honor from the U.S. Motel Association of America.

S.W. "SIM" HARRIS, BARNEY AND MARIE HARRIS

The Harris family of Conway began their stay on Route 66 in 1930 when Sim built the first of three gas stations and a tourist court on opposite corners of Route 66. Barney and Marie built the first Harris Café—better known as "Barney's"—next to Sim's Standard station, which became known as the "Home of the Little Round Pie". The Harrises moved their café as the high-

way moved, closing for good in 1965 when the Conway I-44 Interchange was built.

This year's class joins the previous years' honorees:

Direct Route delegates I.T. Curry, W.M. Hawkins, Bert Henderson, Andrew Rader, Fred D. Harris, Phil M. Donnelly, L.C. Mayfield and the 1922 Lebanon School Band, who led the charge to have the future Route 66 run through Lebanon.

William and Ethel Lenz, operators of the Lenz Tourist Home.

Tom Bacon, Thornton "Thorny" Speaker, Tommy Speaker, Teddy Speaker, Lena Bell Speaker England and Dale Speaker, operators of the Speaker's Mobil gas station.

Bob and Romona Lehman, longtime owners of the Munger Moss Motel.

Col. Arthur T. and Lizzie Nelson and Frank and Dorothy Nelson, operators of "Nelsonville" businesses at Route 66 and Highway 5.

Charles and Lida Spears and Emis and Lois Spears, founders of Camp Joy.

Bill Wheeler, organizer of the first Lebanon Route 66 Festival and the Lebanon-Laclede County Route 66 Society.

Glenn Wrinkle, operator of Wrink's Food Market for 55 years.



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Plaza celebrates the legacy of Lebanon R-3 schools

The Alumni Plaza at the former Lebanon Junior High School grounds was dedicated September of 2021 on the 150th anniversary of Lebanon R-3 schools.

Commemorative bricks and columns were installed at the plaza, which is located in the area that was once an outdoor classroom in front of the Wallace Building. A focal point of the plaza is the steps and bell from the Adams Building, which was the districts first high school.

The Alumni Plaza was built on the bulldozed campus where the Adams, Washington, Wallace, and Rainey Buildings, the old High School and the old Junior High once stood.

Entering the Alumni Plaza from the covered sidewalk, visitors will see historical markers with pictures of each of the buildings along with its history. In the center of the Alumni Plaza is a sculpture of children reading a book sitting on top of the world representing the legacy of learning, generation after generation, in Lebanon schools. It sits on a base made of bricks salvaged from the original school buildings.

Across the back side of the Alumni Plaza are the



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oldest pieces of school history. The Adams Building steps that were put in place in 1870 and the original school bell are relocated to this place of honor. Flanking the steps on either side are four tall columns that represent each of the former school buildings. Outlining the entire Alumni Plaza are donated engraved bricks with names of students, teachers, staff, principals, administrators, school board members and community supporters.

Phase 2 of the plaza will include a pavilion where the Lebanon Jr. High Commons was located.

"We're a volunteer nonprofit, so things move very slowly," LHSAA board president Carol Bauer said at the groundbreaking for the pavilion, adding later, "but here we are today, breaking ground on it."

The pavilion will be located on the site of the former middle school commons area. According to Bauer, the pavilion is meant to facilitate the same kind of connections the middle school's space once did.

Bauer gave thanks to several members of the community including LHSAA board member and project manager Lester Capps, contractor Mike Palmer, architect Stephen Telscher, the R-III School District, the City of Lebanon, and those who previously supported the plaza project by purchasing bricks.

In the spirit of thanksgiving, Bauer also took the opportunity to express her gratitude for the schools that she grew up and taught in.

"We are so grateful for the education we received here," Bauer said.

The pavilion will be built where the Lebanon Jr. High Commons was located. The Commons was added to join the old high school, the Rainey building, and the old Junior High, the Wallace Building. Bauer said the new pavilion will be named "The Commons" to commemorate those school days when junior high students hung out and soon alumni and community members too will be able to hang out in "the commons."

She said there will be a portico entrance on the covered walkway side of the pavilion. From the pavilion up to the covered sidewalk, there will be panels to display individual plaques for alumni who would like to have their name etched into the history here. We are out of room for bricks at the Plaza. Plaques will be available for purchase soon where the same information can be displayed as was displayed on the bricks.

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Just a few miles west of Lebanon is Bennett Spring State Park, one of Missouri's first and most popular state parks, which attracts a growing number of tourists every year.

The third largest natural spring in the state of Missouri pumps 100 million gallons

of water each and every day. Anglers from around the nation wade in the spring's waters in search of lunker-sized trout, and those looking for adventures in camping and canoeing come in droves each year, but there was once a time when Bennett Spring State Park was simply known as Brice, Mo. During the 1920s when America was enjoying prosperity following World War I, Bennett Spring (then known as Brice) was one of many areas considered by state planners to be preserved as a state park.

A Dec. 12, 1924, article in the Laclede County Republican stated that Lebanon





Chamber of Commerce President O.A. Mayfield requested that the state consider Bennett Spring as a possible state park site.

The article said the first parcel of land, 8 1/2 acres belonging to Josie Bennett Smith, would become a part of Bennett Spring State Park. The land was purchased from Mrs. Smith on Dec. 27, 1924.

Several weeks later, another contract was signed between William Sherman Bennett, Mrs. Smith's brother, and the state for the sale of 565.33 acres. Of that land, 427 acres can be traced as belonging to James Brice, who settled there in 1837. The land where today's park store, office, dining lodge and hatchery buildings stand once belonged to the Brice and Bennett families.

Brice, the first permanent settler in the Bennett Spring area, died in 1855 and is buried in the Bennett Cemetery.

The Bennett family later settled at the spring area on land known as the Elmer Conn farm, site of the present Sand Spring Motel and Restaurant. The enterprising Peter Bennett built a mill at the spring outlet and Niangua River, which also was washed away in a rainstorm and flood.

When Peter Bennett died in 1882, his son, William Sherman Bennett, continued to run the mill. Bennett's daughter, Josie Bennett Smith, operated a hotel at Brice for many years.

The Bennett Mill was destroyed by fire in 1895. The last mill at Brice was built by Dr. John B. and Freeman Atchley.

By the turn of the century, recreation was gaining in importance at Brice. According to the DNR brochure, in 1900 the Missouri fish commissioner introduced 40,000 mountain trout into the spring, and a privately owned



fish hatchery was built in 1923, the year before the state bought the spring and some of the surrounding area for a state park.

It was reported that in the early 1900s, William Sherman Bennett had a number of cans of young trout emptied into the spring. The trout thrived in the cold waters, attracting many fishermen.

Today, one of the oldest original buildings at Bennett Spring is the Bennett Spring Church of God, organized in 1917 through the influence of William Sherman and Louie Boles Bennett, who donated land for the church site. In the 1950s, stone veneer was applied over the wooden structure. It is the only original building that was in old Brice.

In 1933, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the Works Project Administration (WPA) were two new programs implemented by the U.S. government to put people to work during the Great Depression.

They built a new dam, a bridge, a dining lodge, six cabins, a store and post office building, shelters, houses, roads and trails. They also renovated the old Atchley Mill.

The men also constructed a second set of gravel-bottomed hatchery rearing pools

and in 1935 built a new section onto the hatchery building. After the men left in 1938, they dismantled all but one of their barracks.

In 1969, Arlie Bramwell sold his wood and stone cabins to the state. Ralph Usery's cabins were razed. Splan's Resort was once a very busy place there. Vogel's Resort was acquired by the state in 1980.

In 1969, the Nature Interpretive Center opened at the park with George Kastler as the first naturalist, and in 1982 the park dedicated a new office and store building close to the dining lodge on the site of the original Brice.

Later, the park's Niangua entrance was renamed the Bramwell Entrance in honor of Arlie Bramwell.

An additional 1,650 acres of land to the south of the current state boundary were purchased in November 1988 to provide watershed protection for Bennett Spring itself as well as the park area. Each year has brought more improvements.

Now, at 3,216 acres, the state park that arose around Peter Bennett's spring continues to delight all comers.

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City offers customers Al-powered assistance

The City of Lebanon began using a new customer service platform in 2024.

Developed in partnership with Citibot, Truman is an AI-powered solution designed to enhance resident engagement and provide efficient customer service around the clock.

Truman offers a web chat assistant accessible via the City's website and a text message feature, allowing residents to easily get answers to their questions, find information on city services, submit service requests, send messages to staff, and sign up for notifications. The platform leverages the latest in generative AI and machine learning to provide accurate and timely responses.

Residents can access Truman's web chat service on the City's website, www.lebanon-missouri.org. The chat icon is located at the bottom right of the screen. Clicking on the



icon opens a chat window where users can type in their questions or service requests.

For those who prefer texting, simply text "Hello" to (844) 771-4636 (INFO). Truman will respond with a greeting and guide users on how to interact with the service.

Derek Gean, Communications Manager for the City of Lebanon, expressed his enthusiasm about Truman's potential to improve resident engagement. "We are thrilled to introduce Truman to our community," Gean said. "This innovative tool will make it easier for our residents to connect with the city and get the information they need, whenever they need it."

Mayor Jared Carr also shared his support for the new platform. "Truman represents a

significant step forward in our commitment to accessibility and transparency," Mayor Carr said. "We are proud to provide our residents with a state-of-the-art customer service experience."

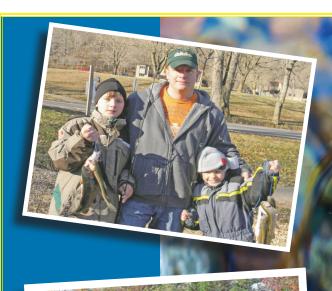
Based in Charleston, SC, Citibot LLC was founded in 2016 with a mission to make cities and counties more accessible. Bratton Riley, Citibot's co-founder and CEO, noted the importance of evolving customer service expectations.

"People's expectations of high-quality customer service are ever-increasing," Riley said. "Cities like Lebanon are leading the way by delivering powerful solutions to maximize efficiency and enhance access to information and vital services."

For more information about how Lebanon is using Citibot and to experience Truman firsthand, visit www.lebanonmissouri.org.







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Lebanon Midway Speedway, located just outside of town at 22301 Route B, was opened in June 2004. It offers good old fashioned closed dirt track racing on its 3/8ths semi-banked oval track.

The dirt track is owned by Clint Gann and Tina LeAnn, who purchased the track in 2021. Races are held on Friday nights in April through September. Gates open at 5 p.m. with hot laps starting at 7 p.m. and the race starting at 8 p.m. The track hosts POWRi sanctioned races, including

B-Modifieds and A-Modifieds. Other race classes include power, street stocks, Midwest modifieds, pure stocks, front wheel drive hornets and late models.

For more information, visit www.mid-wayspeedway.net.

Lebanon also features the I-44 Speedway, which is located at 24069 U.S. Route 66.

I-44 features also features races that memorialize and pay tribute to members of the local racing communities. On their

website, readers can discover the history of local legends like Bill Don Willard and Larry Phillips, and read the rules for the races that may just help new drivers become legends in their own right.

Hotels close to the I-44 Speedway include Munger Moss and America's Best Value Inn, and a full list of nearby hotels can be found on Visit Lebanon, MO's website.

For further details, visit https:/www.i44speedway.com.



Christmas on Commercial







Christmas on Commercial is a holiday tradition started by the businesses of Lebanon.

In 2019, the Downtown Business District got together to create a new event to celebrate Downtown and the Christmas holiday during December.

Each December since, businesses up and down Commercial Street have decked their storefronts out with Christmas cheer.

Many businesses also participate in

fun activities throughout the night. Families can meet Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus, tell them what they want for Christmas and get photos with the magical couple. Activities include a photo booth, live music, sleigh rides, cookie decorating and dance performances. A highlight is the Light Up Lebanon UTV Parade.

The evening culminates with a Community Christmas Tree lighting and caroling.



Wagons for Warriors serves up food and fun to help out veterans

The aroma of cowboy cooking fills the Laclede County Fairgrounds in May for the annual Wagons for Warriors fundraiser.

The annual event is a fundraiser to help veterans.

One recent participant, Kent Rollins, held cooking classes that attracted a record number of people.

As the event began on a Friday, dinner was held for the chuck wagon members.

"We had a nice dinner for the wagon people," organizer Steve Hull said.

Saturday, cooks started to work about 5 a.m.

"People started showing up a lot earlier this year," Hull said. "Each and every line at every wagon was just unbelievably long. We just had a tremendous crowd," he said.

After the sampling of the food, an auction was held.

"Don Ballard, our Medal of honor recipient was there and donated one of his Challenge Coins. It brought \$3,500," he said.

The auction brought in \$20,000.

"Our auctions have always done good, but this was the best one we've had," he said.

The event included performances by the Nanticoke Indians from Delaware. The South Fork Regulators re-enacted a Wild West gunfight.

Past participants in the event have included Dana Bowman, a double amputee who parachutes with an American flag and Buck Taylor who played Newley on



"Gunsmoke." Another participant was Ballard, a Navy Corpsman and Medal of Honor recipient.

Over the years, the event has donated to organizations such as Friends of the Fort, AUSA, Missouri Patriot Paws and bought two USO therapy dogs for Fort Leonard Wood and the Fisher House, which houses family members of veterans in the hospital for a long stay. They also give gift cards to veterans in nursing homes.

At a recent Wagons for Warriors, Kent

Rollins, a Wagons for Warriors mainstay and YouTube cooking star with over two million subscribers, brought his chuck wagon to the event again.

"We put this on our calendar every year to come here. It's a great cause for great people," Rollins said.

The American flag flew over his chuck wagon as he handed out plasticware and greeted old fans and some who might become new fans after sampling his cooking.

Hull said the donation he may be most





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proud of are the defibrillators that he said have saved at least one life.

One of the wagon participants, Mike Bonnett, had a heart attack on the grounds in 2019 and passed away.

"We felt if we'd had a defibrillator we might have been able to save him, so Wagons for Warriors bought and donated three defibrillators to the City of Lebanon in memory of Mike Bonnett," he said.

They are located at the Mills Center, Civic Center and Heritage Center.

"This past year, I was called by a lady, and they were having a show at the Civic Center. This lady had a heart attack, and she wanted me to know our defibrillator saved this lady's life. They thought she was gone, then they used the defibrillator and she regained a pulse," he said. "We're very proud of that. I think it's important for the people who sponsor us to know that's where their money goes. They helped save a life."

At this year's event, Nanticoke tribe members shared several dances with their audience early in the day that ranged from traditional to ones that helped children score candy. Two of the Nanticoke, Herman Jackson and Mike Harmon, taught visitors about the tribe's culture.

"We're open for questions," Harmon said. "We accept people from all different backgrounds and places." Later, he said, "We want people to know that we're traditional, and we wear these regalia for a purpose. They're not costumes. Just come on out and meet us and have a good time."

Several veterans' organizations were present to provide information. Melinda Ross from the VFW spoke on the poppy



pins that the group was handing out as well as the group's upcoming activities.

"Buddy poppies are to support our veterans, and the money stays local and goes back to our local veterans here in Lebanon," Ross said.

Representatives from other related organizations, like National Day of the Cowboy, were also present. Bob Demitry from NDC spoke on the importance of recognizing cowboy culture's contribution to the nation's economy.

"We're struggling to keep it alive," Demitry said on the organization. He later said, "The cowboy has done so much for the economy of this country. You can't see them going 75 miles an hour down

the highway, but they're there. They're the ones that put the steaks on the table."

Chuckwagon groups cooked lunch for the crowd, and the variety of food consistent with the variety in the waggoneers' place of origins. From Illinois to Texas, the waggoneers brought food ranging from cowboy stew to roasted pig.

The event continues each year with the help of sponsors.

"We've been so blessed to have good sponsors, people who are eager to help us. We are an all volunteer organization. No one on our staff receives pay," Hull said. "It's good for the veterans, and it's also good for the City of Lebanon."



Wagons for Warriors







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Veterans Memorial Park features

anchor, helicopter and tank

Lebanon's Veterans Memorial Park proudly displays artifacts from the U.S. military. The park display includes a helicopter, a tank and a 30,000-pound ship's anchor.

The anchor is the most recent addition to the park. It came from the USS Randolph, a World War II era aircraft carrier, which later played a role in the space program in the early 1960s, including the recovery of an astronaut and space capsule. It joins an outof-service Bell AH-1 Cobra military helicopter and Sherman Tank already on display at the Lebanon Veterans' Memorial Park

The anchor was formerly located in front of a high school in Kingsport, Tenn., where it had been displayed since 1994.

Steve Hull, who organizes the annual Wagons for Warriors fundraiser for veterans, said he had wanted to see the Navy represented in the Veterans Memorial Park.

"I was looking for an anchor since I'm a Vietnam era Navy veteran, and I thought we needed something to represent the Navy, Coast Guard and Marine Corps," he said.

Hull contacted naval authorities in Washington, D.C. who told him they possibly had an anchor available.

"I kept pursuing it, and they had an anchor in Tennessee and those people were wanting to have it moved, so it worked out really good for us," Hull said. "I got a hold of the city, and they were interested in having an anchor as well."

According to the plaque where the anchor was formerly displayed, it was part of the USS Randolph, which was commissioned in 1944 and decommissioned in 1969. The USS Randolph served in the Pacific during World War II, surviving a kamikaze attack at Ulithi and later joined fleets in the Atlantic and Mediterranean.

The USS Randolph recovered astronaut Gus Crissom and returned astronaut John Glenn, the first American to orbit the earth, to Grand Turk Island for his medical exam.

Records show that a man from Lebanon may have served on the ship. Other













anchors from this ship are located at Toms Run, New Jersey, and at the University of Texas in Austin.

The helicopter and tank were placed on display in 2022. They were officially dedicated in a Veterans Day ceremony.

The AH-1 Cobra is an attack helicopter developed for the U.S. Army to use in the Vietnam War.

For several decades, the AH-1 formed the core of the U.S. Army's attack helicopter fleet, seeing combat in Vietnam, Grenada, Panama and the Gulf War.

The M4A3E8 is one of the most mass-produced versions of the main U.S. armored vehicle of the World War II period.

This model was used in the Korean War and briefly in the Vietnam War.

Members of the Lebanon-area Veterans Memorial Board and city leaders worked for more than a decade to make the displays a reality.

In late 2021, City leaders received word from the U.S. Army that a request for the helicopter had been granted.

The Army later said that a tank would be available as well.

The helicopter was moved to the City of Lebanon in August of 2021. Public works crews painted and restored the helicopter. The helicopter had been on display at the Floyd W. Jones Airport while city leaders worked to secure the tank and prepare the engineering for the display. The anchor was installed in the park in June 2023.

The Veterans Memorial Park is located on the grounds of the Cowan Civic Center at the corner of Washington and Elm Streets at the city's Palmer Park.

Friends of the Fort Rocks the Block for Fort Leonard Wood soldiers

More than 100 soldiers spending their Christmas holidays in Missouri got a warm welcome to Lebanon for the annual Rock the Block event.

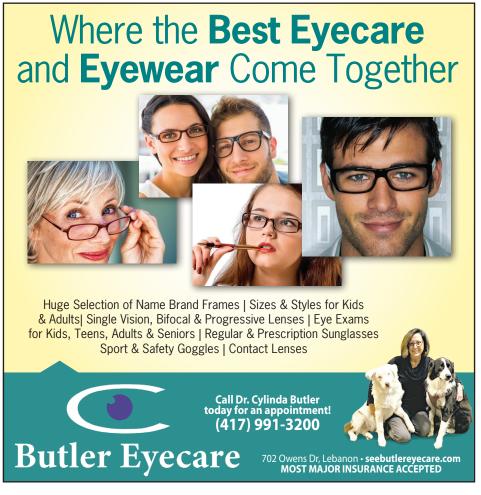
They were greeted by cheering and flag-waving from Lebanon Boswell elementary students at the Cowan Civic Center as they prepared to spend some fun time in the city.

Rock the Block is held annually for Fort Leonard soldiers who are unable to go home for the Christmas holiday season.

They were welcomed to town by Mayor Jared Carr and attended a rock concert at the Kenneth E. Cowan Civic Center. The soldiers were then bused to a local restaurant for lunch. Afterwards, they were bused back to the civic center for an afternoon of go-karting, RC racing, cornhole and miniature golf.

Lebanon Friends of the Fort President







Brennon Willard said the concert was performed by 7 Dollar Stereo and was followed by lunch at Elm Street Eatery. They then returned to the Civic Center where they rode go karts on an indoor dirt track.

That evening they were taken to the Mighty Oak Lodge where they had dinner from A Taste of Andy's and enjoyed music.

Willard said the event is designed to provide fun activities for soldiers who have nowhere to spend holiday block leave.

"The Fort has a holiday block leave where all the military gets to go home for the holidays," he said. "They do that every year and there are lots of younger kids that don't have a family, don't have anywhere to go."

He said the event began in 2019 to give these soldiers a fun day in town.

"We're hosting about 120 soldiers, airmen, sailors and Marines," he said. He said Friends of the Fort sponsors the event along with the Fort Leonard Wood AUSA (Association of the United States Army), and with some assistance from the City of Lebanon.

"Lots of businesses have donated to the cause," Willard said. "A lot people donate and step up to make it happen."



Mayor Carr said the city welcomed the opportunity to provide some holiday joy for the troops.

"Lebanon has always held a special place in its heart for the military and veterans," he said in a statement. "We are deeply thankful for the opportunity to collaborate with Friends of the Fort, the Lebanon Area Chamber of Commerce, Lebanon R3 Schools, and other local organizations to roll out the red carpet for our service members. Providing a day of entertainment for those who couldn't travel

home for the holidays is just one way we show our gratitude. Our partnership with Fort Leonard Wood is invaluable, and we continually seek ways to strengthen it and serve our troops with the honor they deserve."

People interested in helping with future Rock the Block events may contact Melinda Fries at the Lebanon Area Foundation.

"It takes a lot of money and effort to make this happen so I want to thank all the people who helped us out," Willard said.

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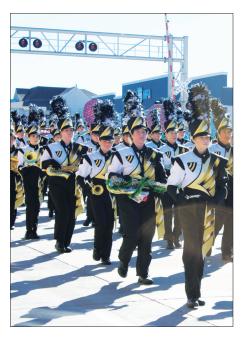
Santa is coming to town



Around the third week of November each year, Lebanon kicks off its holiday season on a Saturday morning by lighting up downtown.

Thousands of residents of the city and the surrounding area line both sides of West Elm Street and North Jefferson Avenue as 100-plus floats and other participants roll by.

The parade route begins at Boswell Park and continues east on Elm Street before turning north on Jefferson Avenue and eventually ending at Sixth Street.











Remembering school days in Lebanon

The Lebanon High School Museum is now open during some sporting events. People can also request to view the displays at other times with a school pass.

Eddie Smith of the Lebanon High School Alumni Association said they have been putting displays together to tell the story of Lebanon High School.

He said the class of 1962 closed their bank account and gave it to the alumni to establish the museum.

"The first phase was built-in display cases bought with that money and we brought in artifacts that have been collected over the years from different phases of the schools. This is stuff that's been in storage for years," he said.

The museum includes six individ-

ual display cases purchased with funds from the memorial of two alumni, Jim Bohannon and Bonnie Holman Hudson.

Smith said he used the cases to create displays with the theme, "One Moment in Time."

"These are moments in time that we look back on the history of our school," he said.

One case contains a tribute to the career of LHS alumni Jim Bohannon who was a nationally syndicated radio host. A 1962 LHS graduate, he worked in Lebanon and Springfield before starting his nightly national broadcast.



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Another display showcases music that was popular in the early 1960s, including artists such as Englebert Humperdinck, Pat Boone, Elvis Presley and Connie Francis.

Another display recalls a favorite teenage hangout.

"Verns' Malt Shop was on the corner of Jefferson and Commercial Street. They served the best coneys in the world and chili. That's where all the teenagers went," Smith said. "They didn't have drive-ins or McDonald's back then."

The 1961 prom is depicted in another display with the dress worn by Pat Rainey, Smith's date for the prom, who was the daughter of Principal Ellis Rainey. The theme was "an Evening in Paris."

There is a banner displaying the school mascot from the class of 1968. The artist and what it was used for are unknown.

The construction of the fieldhouse from 1957 is shown in another display.

"Ernest Breech, the president of Ford Motor Company, who was a graduate of Lebanon High School, came back to Leb-







anon at the 1957 graduation ceremonies and presented the student body president, C.E. "Charlie" Brown with \$100,000 to build the fieldhouse," Smith said. "It was the finest fieldhouse and basketball court in southwest Missouri. We were the envy of every town around, including Springfield," Smith said.

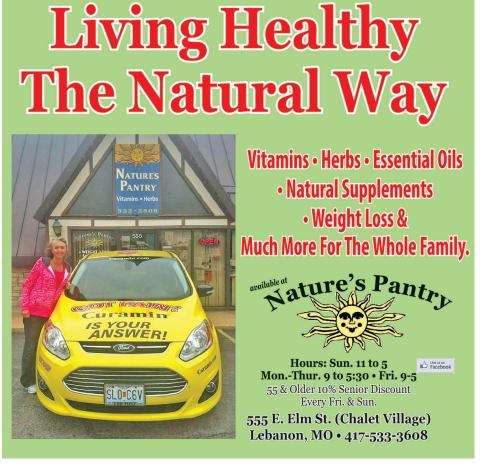
The display includes a tribute to the first team to play in the fieldhouse in 1958.

Another display recaps the celebration of the Lebanon R-3 School District's 100th anniversary.

"We have displayed here the original four buildings that stood on the campus that are now gone, we have the beautiful Alumni Plaza there to remember those schools," he said.

Smith said the group plans to change the displays periodically and add new items. The museum is at the north hallway of Boswell Auditorium. The Boswell auditorium faces the football field so people can come in, turn left and they will come to the museum.





Providing support to the City Council

Mike Schumacher puts Lebanon policies into action

Mike Schumacher, Lebanon's city administrator, is the person responsible for putting the plans and policies of the city's elected officials into action. A large part of his role is to provide support to the City Council

"They [the council] develop policy and direction for the organization," Schumacher said. "It's my role to make sure that that gets done and that the organization achieves their overall goals and objectives."

The city hired Schumacher in 2018. Prior to his hiring at the City of Lebanon, he worked as assistant city manager for Kansas City, Mo. Schumacher noted that while his team in Lebanon is smaller than his prior team in Kansas City, they faced similar challenges.

"Since joining the team here in Lebanon, I'm very proud of the direction of the organization, the leadership of our elected officials and what we've been able

to accomplish as a community," Schumacher said. "We are one team here."

Schumacher not-

ed his constant presence in the community as being part of the job. "It is a woven and intricate part of the role," Schumacher said.

The revitalization of Lebanon's Downtown District is one of the projects Schumacher is proud of, along with the construction of Fire Station 3 and accelerated asphalt overlays programs for city streets. He said all of these plans came from the Citizen Satisfaction Survey, which the city uses to determine its needs.

"I think Lebanon as a whole, has a lot to be proud of," Schumacher said.

Looking to the future, Schumacher plans to continue to improve the city's communication and transparency as well as to further relationships between the city and its community partners. One relationship he highlighted was between the city and local public schools.

"Six years ago, this community did not have access to a storm shelter, and now we have three storm shelters available to the community because of the relationships be-

tween the city and the school," Schumacher said. "Understanding our shared goals and visions and where they overlap and capitalizing on those.

If it wasn't for those relationships and partnerships, they're all investments to the community, you wouldn't see the progress we see now."

Schumacher noted that Project 2040, the city's newly adopted comprehensive plan, provided direction for the city's goals.

"Those are not things that are going to happen overnight, but there's some low-hanging fruit, some really great opportunities there," Schumacher said. One of which, Schumacher notes, is the city's push to improve as a medical hub in the region by collaborating with healthcare providers and other partners.

Speaking of his professional relationship with Mayor Jared Carr, Schumacher said he was pleased with the mayor's leadership.

"He has provided leadership to this community for several years," Schumacher said. "He is a great leader. He runs a business. He understands multiple sides of every challenge and opportunity and is willing to talk through them to try to build consensus. And that's what's key."

In his closing remarks, Schumacher spoke to visitors and newcomers to Lebanon.

"Lebanon is what you want to make of it," Schumacher said. "If you come to Lebanon, enjoy yourself, see everything this community has to offer."





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American Red Cross of Southern Missouri (417) 832-9500

> ARC Physical Therapy + (417) 657-8000

Arvest Bank (417) 533-3886

Avenue & Home powered by Keller Williams Greater Springfield (417) 664-1113

Barbara Morgans Photography (417) 718-6564

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Chops Barbershop/Chops Beauty Shop

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City of Lebanon (417) 532-2156

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Clement Truck Driving Academy (417) 532-3331

> Clifton's Westside Café (417) 532-7742

> > Commerce Bank (417) 533-3836

Commercial Street Studio (417) 322-4939

Community Baptist Church (417) 532-8421

Community Blood Center of the Ozarks

(417) 830-1910

COPE of Lebanon - Domestic Violence Shelter & Agency (417) 533-5201

Copeland Commercial & **Residential Solutions** (417) 588-8717

Cornerstone Subs & Pizza

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Happy Trails RV Park (417) 533-7530

Heartland Antique Mall (417) 532-9350

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(417) 650-6118 **Laclede County Fair** (417) 718-6752

*Laclede County Government Center

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Laclede County Health Department (417) 532-2134

> **Laclede County Landlords** Association (417) 532-4035

Laclede County Republican **Central Committee**

Laclede County Shrine Club (417) 344-8918

*Laclede Electric Cooperative (417) 532-3164

Laclede Industries (417) 991-1599

^{*} Friends of the Fort Members



2024 **Membership Listing**

Laclede Literacy Council (417) 532-6697

Laclede Mutual Insurance (417) 588-1857 Lake Movers

(573) 375-0266

Lake Printing Co

(573) 346-0600

Lake Regional Health System (573) 302-2858

> Lane Change (417) 991-3727

Lebanon Area Foundation (417) 532-8868

Lebanon Art Guild (907) 227-9019

Lebanon Cleaning Crew (417) 650-0301

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Lebanon Family YMCA (417) 588-1177

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Lebanon Publishing Company (417) 532-9131

Lebanon Pump & Drilling Inc. (417) 589-2023

*Lebanon R3 School District (417) 657-6001

Lebanon Ready Mix, Inc (417) 532-6179

*Lebanon Regional Economic Development, Inc (417) 533-5627

Lebanon Special Road District #1 (417) 532-2308

Lebanon-Laclede County Route 66 Society

(417) 594-2046 LHS Alumni Association

(417) 288-2574 Lifepoint Lebanon

(417) 991-2911 Lowe's Home Improvement

(417) 588-6970

LSK Lebanon, Inc (417) 588-3550

*Mercy Hospital Lebanon (417) 533-6100

Metaltech Products, Inc.

(417) 426-5577

MFA Farmers Produce Exchange (417) 532-3174 Mid-Missouri Bank

(417) 588-1000

Mid-Missouri Insurance (417) 532-5800

Mike Light Insurance Agency (417) 588-2219

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Missouri Job Center - Lebanon (417) 532-6146

Missouri Ozark's Community Action, Inc (MOCA) (573) 765-3263

Missouri Pet Breeders Association (417) 718-4182

> **Missouri Small Business Development Center** (573) 693-9010

Missouri State University (417) 532-0518

Missouri State University -Lebanon Alumni Chapter (417) 836-5654

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Noble Drug & Compounding (417) 344-0586

> Northridge Place (417) 532-9793

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On Point Design LLC (417) 588-7254

Oncology Hematology Associates (417) 860-2394

Optimized Health and Integrative Medicine (417) 533-4355

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