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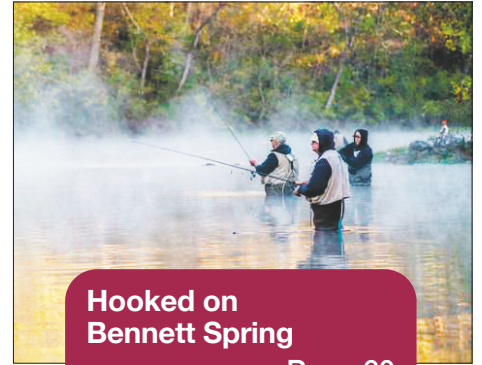
# INSIDE



**Grab a good book**  
Page 20



**Come play in the park**  
Page 46



**Hooked on Bennett Spring**  
Page 60

### New to town?

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

..... Page 6

### Remembering the Mother Road

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

..... Page 22

### Lebanon's crown jewel

The Cowan Civic Center hosts several events each year.

..... Page 66

### Visit historic Lebanon

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

..... Page 11

### Higher learning in Lebanon

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

..... Page 33

### Start your engines

Let's go racin'.

..... Page 72

*Celebrating*  
**90 Years**  
*1933-2023*

**Honoring the Memory**  
*of Your Loved One*

## Mount Rose Memorial Park

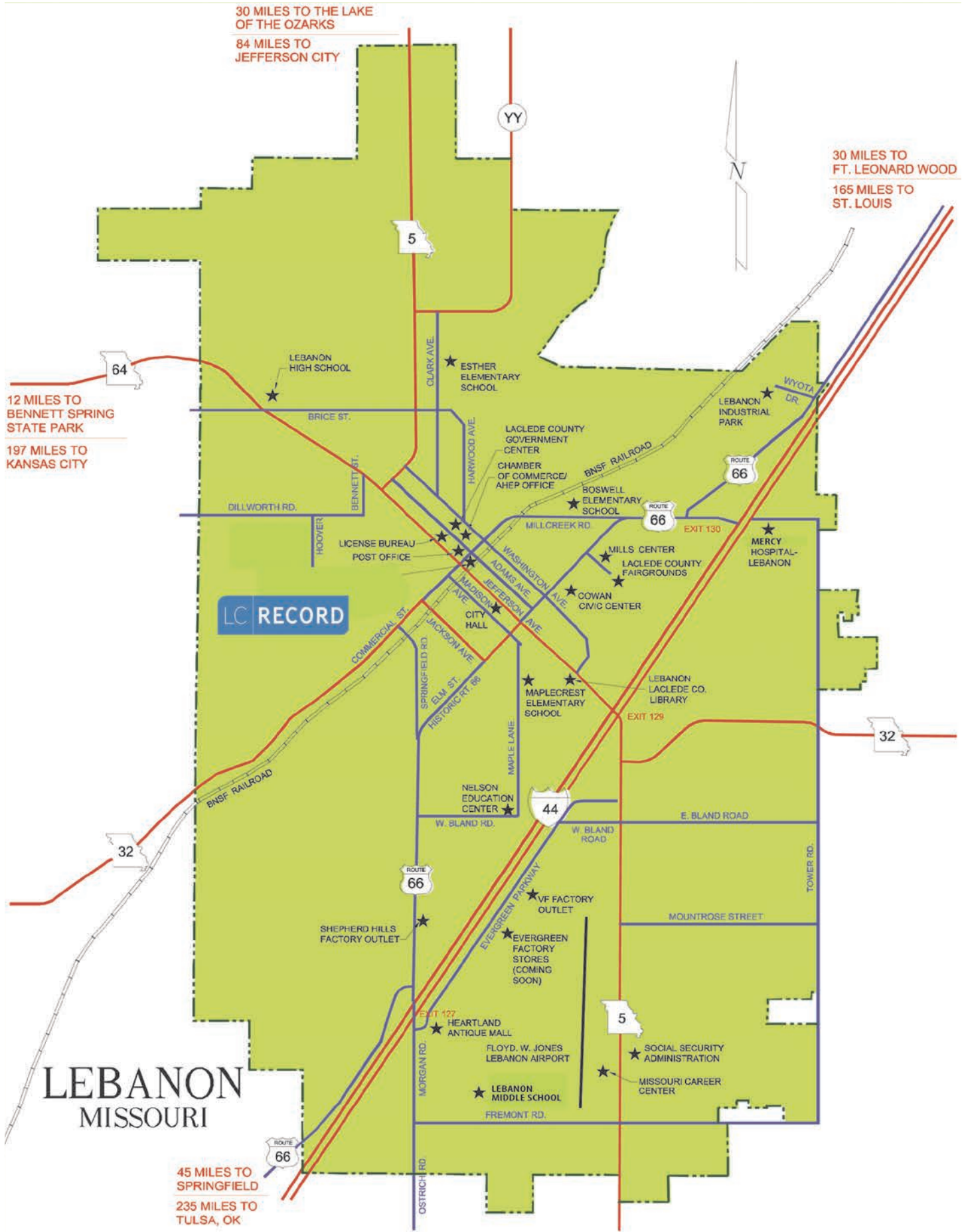
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It is my honor and pleasure to welcome you to Lebanon. Since our founding in 1849, Lebanon has been a community that has always welcomed travelers. Positioned on historic Route 66, now Interstate 44, the community rests on the northeast side of the Ozarks. Lebanon is a growing community with a strong economic base consisting of manufacturing, service and tourism industries.



**Mayor Jared Carr**

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 “Aluminum Boat Capital of the World” is not by happenstance. There are several manufacturers located within Lebanon that help form our economic backbone. We boast several metal manufacturers that make products ranging from the housing industry to semi-trucks and trailers. We also are home to a stave mill, which makes wine and spirit barrels that are shipped worldwide. With the Information Age upon us, industry has changed to meet these needs, and several companies in town have created a high-tech marketplace for industrial machines.

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 roof, including a 48,000 square foot exhibition hall, the Civic Center can accommodate corporate meetings, shows/conventions, weddings or other special events. It also features a 650-person theater with a full stage and orchestra pit. Let our friendly staff help plan your next event!

While here, make sure to visit our Route 66 Museum located inside the library or stop by our Route 66 park with three murals depicting life on Route 66 in Lebanon.

Residents and visitors alike enjoy many

shopping opportunities in our historic downtown and other shopping centers. Wonderful local restaurants appeal to a wide array of tastes from steak to sandwiches to Mexican. If you are hungry, we have it all!

When in town, 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 all while taking in the beautiful scenery that the Ozarks has to offer.

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

<p><b>Mayor Office Hours</b>          Tuesday &amp; Thursday          9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.          or by appointment</p>	<p><b>City Hall Hours</b>          Monday - Friday          8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.</p>
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# 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](http://www.lebanonmissouri.org)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/CityofLebanonMO](https://facebook.com/CityofLebanonMO)  
Twitter: @CityofLebanonMo  
Instagram: @CityofLebanonMO  
Next Door: [nextdoor.com/city/lebanon--mo](https://nextdoor.com/city/lebanon--mo)

## EMERGENCY CONTACTS

**Lebanon Police Department**  
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[www.lebanonmissouri.org/646/Police-Department](http://www.lebanonmissouri.org/646/Police-Department)

# WELCOME TO LEBANON

*Live, Work & Play*



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

# Live

Lebanon is home to almost 15,213 residents.

The average home is \$140,000

Cost of living is 15.3% below the national average.





Follow the LPD on social media at [www.facebook.com/LEBPD](http://www.facebook.com/LEBPD)

**Laclede County Sheriff's Office**

240 N Adams Ave.  
417-532-2311  
[lacledecountysheriff.org](http://lacledecountysheriff.org)

Follow the LCSO on social media at [www.facebook.com/LacledeCoSheriff](http://www.facebook.com/LacledeCoSheriff)

**Lebanon Fire Department Station 1 Headquarters**

370 N. Adams Ave.  
417-532-2104  
[www.lebanonmissouri.org/269/Fire-Department](http://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](http://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](http://www.lebanonmissouri.org/569/Nixle-Registration).

**COURTS/OTHER GOVERNMENT SERVICES**

**Lebanon Municipal Court**

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**Laclede County Government Center**

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**Lebanon License Center**

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417-532-5075

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**Lebanon Area Chamber of Commerce**

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# Work

Lebanon Regional Economic Development is constantly looking for businesses to move to Lebanon.

Lebanon is the "hub" for industrial manufacturing.



# Play

8 City Parks over 100 Acres!  
Boswell Aquatic Center • YMCA  
Race Tracks • Rt. 66 Museum



Visit our many local boutiques, shops, small businesses and our ever growing historic Downtown.



# Lebanon Area Chamber of Commerce

Welcome to Lebanon, Missouri, nestled in the heart of Laclede County. As the newly 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.



**Executive Director  
Ashley Mahan**

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 Mother Road.

In Lebanon, you'll find a perfect blend of history, culture and com-

**Lebanon Area Chamber of Commerce**

500 E. Elm  
Lebanon, Mo. 65536  
Ph: (417) 588-3256  
or (888) 588-5710  
chamber@lebanonmo.com  
lebanonmissouri.com

munity 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 city!

**Ashley Mahan  
Executive Director**

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# Providing shelter from the storm

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

Federal Emergency Management Agency storm shelters are available to the public outside of school hours. Current shelters include Lebanon Middle School and Maplecrest Elementary School, and soon, these will be joined by the shelter at Boswell Elementary, scheduled for completion in 2024.

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 new FEMA certified 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.

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



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# Visit historic Lebanon

The area offers everything from historic stops on the Mother Road to trout fishing at Bennett Spring

If you're shopping, antiques, 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 ▶▶



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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



**Rebecca Rupard**

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

*Why Lebanon is a great place to live?!*

**FUN FACTS ABOUT LEBANON:**

- In 1880, Lebanon was found to have magnetic water.
- Lebanon was originally named Wyota.
- Lebanon is known as the Aluminum Boat Capital of the world.

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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.

Another popular attraction centered around cars, fast ones, is the Lebanon Midway Speedway. Friday nights between April and September, you can feed your need for speed at this Speedway with its fast and wild dirt-track venue.

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, contact the Tourism Office for the City of



Lebanon at toll free 844-4LEBANON or visit our website at [www.VisitLebanonMO.org](http://www.VisitLebanonMO.org).

**Rebecca Rupard**  
Lebanon Tourism Director

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# Lebanon is 'REDI' for economic development

As the world of economic development evolves, Lebanon and Laclede County continue to have a partner at the forefront of the various changes and challenges.

Nearing its 20th anniversary, Lebanon Regional Economic Development, Inc. (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 residents through retention, expansion, attraction and development of primary jobs and capital investments." REDI is funded through a variety of means including public support from the City of Lebanon and Laclede County as well as from private financial contributions.

"REDI would not 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 have 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 sometimes work in the opposite direction. You need to attract or enhance the workforce first to convince a company to move 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



**Lebanon REDI President and CEO Brian Thompson** mans a booth at the Fort Leonard Wood Job Fair. Thompson works to recruit businesses to Laclede County.

experiences that they otherwise would not have access to. Thompson said that this approach is developing the future workforce in innovative ways. He noted

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that GOCAPS coordinator Ann Hopper and facilitators Sara Light, Joey Bowling and Daniel Peregoy 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 member Hopper has also taken the lead in the development and management of the nine-month leadership program known as "Leadership Lebanon," that will help the community enhance future leaders to help grow Lebanon and Laclede County for the future. The program is in its fourth year and is the result of a collaboration between REDI and the University of Missouri Extension Service (MU Extension)

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# Look at what's made in Lebanon

"Made in Lebanon" was the theme for Downtown one day last spring.

The first Crafted Lebanon Strong Industry Showcase featured products developed and produced in the Lebanon area.

Brian Thompson, president and CEO of Lebanon Regional Economic Development Inc. said organizers were happy with how things went.

"The inaugural Crafted Lebanon Strong Industry Showcase was a fantastic event," he said. "We are grateful to the many industries that participated to showcase a little taste of what they do and how they make us a center of manufacturing excellence for the state of Missouri. We also want to thank everyone who came out to experience the event as well as the volunteers from the City of Lebanon, Lebanon Missouri Main Street, Inc., Lebanon Area Chamber of Commerce and Lebanon-REDI who helped make the event happen."

Businesses were out in force to show what they produce, including Tommy Huff, a manufacturing engineer with White River Marine Group.

"We're just here to show the community everything that's built here in Lebanon that touches the whole wide world," Huff said. "These were built right here in town."

Ken Ogilvie, a maintenance employee



with Ice Cream Factory, said the company was preparing for its move to Lebanon later this year.

"We should be opening manufacturing in Lebanon in the fall," he said. "Sales and manufacturing are going good, and we're ready to grow," Ogilvie said.

G3 Boats and SunCatcher pontoons were on display. The company employs about 350 people in Lebanon.

"We're always working for more to join up. Today, we brought a sportsman 18-ton and Elite 24-foot pontoon. It's a good chance to showcase some of the boats we manufacture locally," said Kelly Brace, quality manager at G3 Boats.

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Others who contributed to the event were Mitch Shields, who provided musical entertainment during the day, the City of Lebanon's street department, which provided traffic control and displays, as well as the Lebanon Fire Department and Lebanon Police Department for their presence.

"We're also grateful for the businesses in Downtown Lebanon that continue to make their portion of our community a true destination for economic activity," Thompson said.

Industries participating in the event were G3 Boats, Missouri Eagle, Betterway Products, Marine Electrical Products, Lowe Boats, The Durham Company, Ice Cream Factory, White River Marine



Group (Tracker and Ranger Aluminum) and White River Marine Group (Tracker Plastics).

Thompson also noted that part of the goal of the event is for local youth to learn more about what their parents, guardians or other family members do at their jobs – bringing a small part of the job to the forefront for all to experience.

Lebanon Missouri Main Street, Inc., the City of Lebanon and the Lebanon Area Chamber of Commerce supported the inaugural effort.

Thompson said they were grateful for the partnerships that made Crafted Lebanon Strong possible.






**PROUD TO BE LEBANON & LACLEDE COUNTY'S  
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**Brian Thompson**  
Lebanon-REDI President/CEO  
brian@lebanonredi.com



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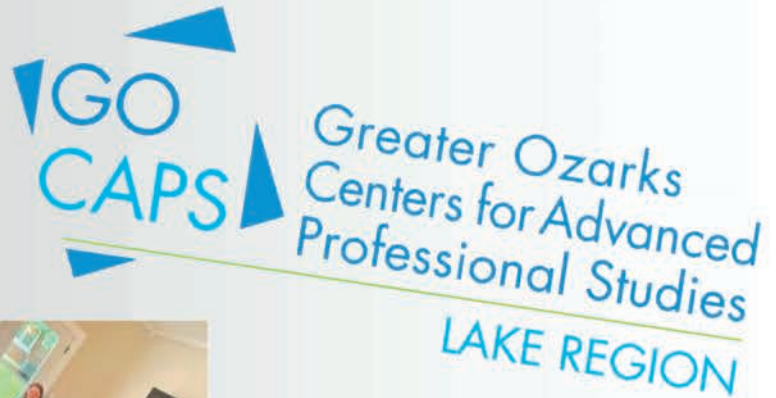


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## Read all about it at the Lebanon-Laclede County Library

The Lebanon-Laclede County Library is located at 915 S. Jefferson and is home to a big collection of books, a museum and gift shop.

More than 15 years ago, a group of donors got together to transform an abandoned K-Mart building 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's not including all the items

that can be borrowed through on-line e-book lending services or from library-to-library borrowing.

There is wireless internet service, books on tape, 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 obituar-

ies for Laclede County residents, but are 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 a number of biographies of prominent residents and original settlers.

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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 two hours with a \$2 visitor's card.

The Missouri Room microfilm collection, available free, 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.

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.

Best selling 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, geology and other subjects.

The library is also a place for fun educational programs for all ages.

Every year, the library 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 present.

The library is also home to the Route 66 Museum, which tells the local history of the Mother Road, and the Kinderhook Treasure

gift shop, which is filled with numerous unique items.

The building is accessible to people with disabilities.

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

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# Route 66 Museum draws visitors from all around the world

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.

Ally Dorris, museum manager, said the museum is celebrating its 19th year at the library.

“It covers the history of Route 66, both the local and general history,” she said.

“We have a range of artifacts. Most of them are local. We have displays talking about local businesses here in Laclede County, and we have a display about Missouri businesses,” she said. “We have the nostalgia aspect of it as well with the diner and the car, the cabin and also showing how things would have looked along Route 66. We try to keep it local, because you can



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go to other Route 66 museums and they talk about the overall history, but you don't get the local factor."

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 space to spare. Route 66 Society member Bill Wheeler had some ideas about what the facility could do with that space, which included the museum.

Dorris said the Society also had a role in helping gather the artifacts that are on display.

"When the library moved into this building, there was a lot of empty space. They decided this would be a good place for a Route 66 Museum," she said.

People come from Germany, England, Australia, Japan and many other countries to travel what is known as the Main Street of America.

"Last year, we got visitors from 49 states. We were missing Hawaii. That's based on who signs our guest book. We might have had a visitor from Hawaii who didn't sign in, and we also had visitors from 49 different countries," she said.

She said the creators of the museum wanted people to learn about the historic aspect of Route 66.

"I think, a lot of the time, Route 66 is more of a nostalgia thing and people go for the cars and neon ▶▶

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lights, but our emphasis is on the history,” she said. “We offer historical facts about Route 66.”

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 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 a night. Later, cottages and a combination gas station/grocery store were added.

The dirt road had changed very little from its beginnings when it carried the 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 State Highway Commission

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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.



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# Festivals celebrate Route 66

The Route 66 Festival, presented by Lake Regional Health System, attracted some attention in Lebanon last June with a parade through town, classic cars, vendors and bands filling Boswell Park, followed by evening activities at the East Side Block Party.

Bruce Owen, president of the Route 66 Society, was pleased with the turn out and the quality of the festival.

"It was all good. Everywhere you went people were having fun. That was the

main objective," Owen said.

He listed the community's feedback that let him know it was 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.

He said planning for next year began right away 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.

He expects the festival to be "a little bit bigger and a little bit different" next year and invited feedback from the community.

"We appreciate everybody that came and participated. We're open for any suggestions. We're just a bunch of old

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people that want to make the people of Lebanon and surrounding areas happy and have a good time," Owen said.

One person having a good time 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 goodies anyway," Terry Maggard said.

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

He 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 went that far. I haven't really went 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 at," he said.

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



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"It's fun playing with them. I'm still a big kid," Maggard said.

A lot of "big kids" spent a few hours enjoying the classic cars, vendor booths and several bands in Boswell Park.

Owen said the worldwide appeal of Route 66 could be seen in the guest book at the Lebanon-Laclede County Library's Route 66 Museum signed by visitors from many countries.

"There is one Route 66 in the whole wide world, and it goes right here through Lebanon, Mo.," Owen said.



**Chuck Jordan's 1963 Dodge D-100 half-ton** upgraded to a 1999 5.9 Magnum Dodge V-8 has been in the Jordan family for 50 years. He said he had driven it from Chicago to Los Angeles, taking "the old route, just going slow, looking, enjoying it."

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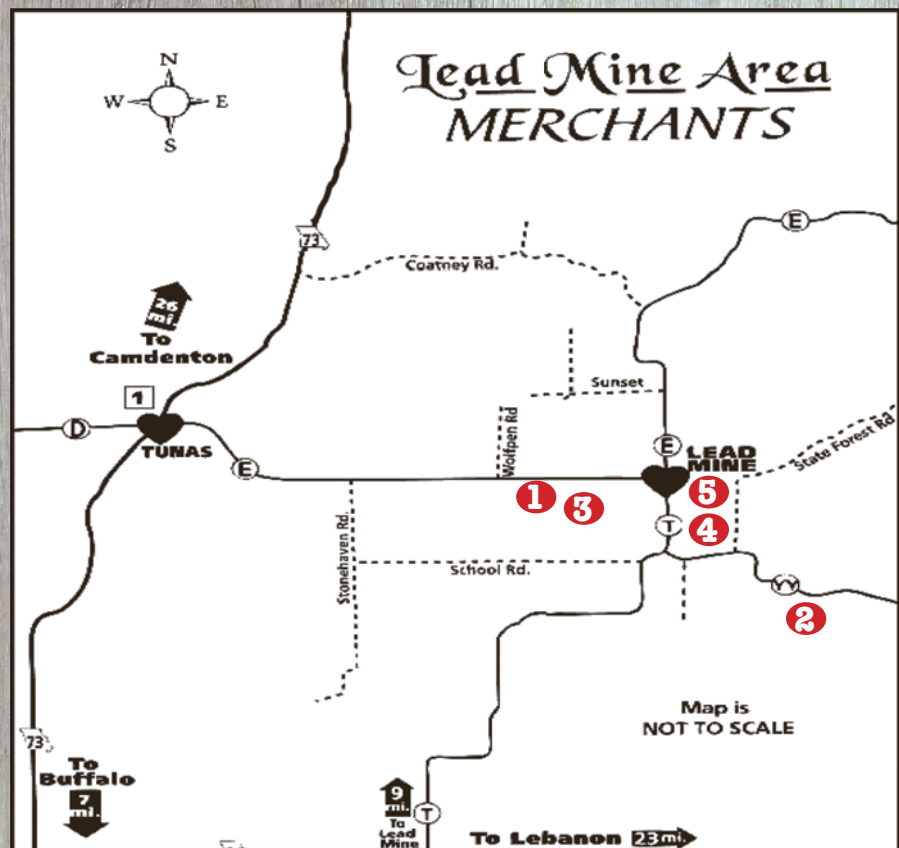


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## Cruise In draws a crowd to Downtown

It did not take long to discover what brought a nice crowd of people to Commercial Street for Downtown Lebanon's Cruise In last June.

For off-duty LPD Officer Vince Ambrose, one reason was the event's ability to bring Lebanon area residents together.

"It's something we've talked about before – how they used to have Hillbilly Days back in the day – and it would be nice to get something like this to get the community back out here on a regular basis," Ambrose said.

Like most of the attendees, Ambrose was there at least in part to see the cars. His wife, Jill, however, was in attendance for another reason.

"I'm here to shop," she said. She nabbed a new collar for her dog that said "I eat things" and an iron pig.

Their friend Mike McDaniel offered a third reason to explain his attendance.

"I'm just here for the food," he said.

And food trucks and ice cream vendors attracted quite a few people.

Cynthia Coffman, Downtown Lebanon

director, was pleased with the outcome of the event.

"The Downtown Cruise In was a terrific success with more classic cars and visitors than ever before. The addition of our Downtown Dad of the Year contest and a cornhole tournament attracted a younger demographic we love to see enjoying time in downtown Lebanon. We are grateful to Mercy for sponsoring the Cruise In and to all who donated prizes."

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# Meet the chief



Bryan Arnold, a former Highway Patrol trooper, has been the chief of police in Lebanon since he was appointed in 2019.

Arnold, a Lebanon resident, formerly served as a criminal investigator assigned to Troop I of the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

He retired from the Patrol in November 2019 with 25 years of law enforcement experience.

"Four days after I retired from the Patrol, I was sworn in as the police chief. Everyone says I failed retirement," Arnold said.

Before beginning his career with the MSHP, Arnold served as a military intelligence

officer in the United States Army. He has an associate degree in criminal justice, an associate degree in missile ammunitions technology, a bachelor's degree in business administration and is a graduate of the MSHP Academy.

Arnold says he is fond of Lebanon.

"I'm so glad I came here. I think God meant for me to. This is where I'm supposed to be. Being the police chief, I get to see the worst part of it, but I also get to see the best part of it. The best part far outshines any of the bad in town," Arnold said.

He said Lebanon is where he and his wife, Michelle, a local banker, have made their home. The Arnolds have two children and two grandchildren.

Arnold began his tenure with the LPD on Nov. 4, 2019, succeeding Chief Randy Halstead, who retired in 2019 after 38 years of service to the department.

Lebanon Police Chief Bryan Arnold

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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 that," 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.

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# New Route 66 honorees named

A three-generation family that operated a gas station for seven decades, a husband and wife who welcomed guests into their tourist home for 40 years, and the community leaders who in 1922 successfully campaigned for the future Route 66 to be routed through Lebanon are the newest members of the Laclede County Route 66 Wall of Fame, the Lebanon-Laclede County Route 66 Society announced.

They were inducted at the Route 66 Society's annual membership meeting in January.

The Wall of Fame honors "those who made exceptional contributions to the development or promotion of Route 66 or who operated legendary businesses on Route 66 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.

This is the second class of Wall of Fame members. Five were selected to the inaugural class in 2022. In creating the Wall of Fame, the Route 66 Society intended the first class to be the biggest.

The 2023 honorees were selected by an eight-person committee with knowledge of local Route 66 history. Forty names were considered.

Additions to the Wall of Fame will be made annually.

The 2023 Wall of Fame inductees



Top left, Tommy Speaker, 2018. Courtesy Route 66 Society

Top center, William and Ethel Lenz, with son Herbert. Courtesy of Bill Lenz

Top right, Phil M. Donnelly. Courtesy of Lebanon-Laclede County Library

are, the Direct Route delegates, which included, in alphabetical order, 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. In 1922, competition

for the primary road from St. Louis to Springfield – the future Route 66 – was heated. Laclede County campaigned for "The Direct Route" through Lebanon.

But Texas County argued for the road to go through Houston, Cabool and

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Mountain Grove. The State Highway Commission ruled July 12 in favor of the Lebanon route, but protests were heard July 25 in Jefferson City.

Lebanon sent 127 road boosters, including the school band, which led a parade from the Madison Hotel to the statehouse. Conway, Phillipsburg and Richland also sent delegations.

A strong speech by Lebanon lawyer Phil M. Donnelly, a future governor, won the day for The Direct Route.

Plaques were presented to the Donnelly family and the Lebanon High School Band.

**WILLIAM AND ETHEL LENZ**

In 1932, photographer, artist and metalworker William Lenz and wife, Ethel, opened their three-story, 14-room dream home on Route 66 at Sheridan Avenue to travelers.

The Lenz Tourist Home featured six sleeping rooms upstairs with murals of the Ozarks countryside, custom-designed light fixtures and handcrafted furnishings. One guest described the home as "the essence of hospitality and good taste." A St. Louis garden club called it "the most beautifully landscaped tourist



home on Route 66." The Lenzes rebranded the home the Lenz Hotel in the 1950s and continued to welcome guests until the early 1970s.

Subsequent owners have lovingly preserved William's floral artistry.

**THE BACON-SPEAKER FAMILY**

Tom Bacon, Thornton 'Thorny' Speaker, Tommy Speaker, Teddy Speaker, Lena Bell Speaker England and Dale Speaker.

Though the gas pumps are long gone, Speaker's Mobil may be Lebanon's only Route 66 landmark still standing (as of 2022) on land owned by the same

family since Route 66 was built. Tom Bacon opened a Shell station and a few tourist cabins about 1926. Wife Lizzie sold sandwiches, including once to Pretty Boy Floyd and gang. Son-in-law Thorny Speaker took over in 1933, switching to Mobil oil and forming Home Oil Co. to distribute Mobil products. A new concrete-block station was built in 1952. Thorny's children - Tommy, Teddy, Lena and Dale - all worked in the family business.

This year's honorees join the five inducted a year ago:

- Bob and Ramona 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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# Director works to keep Lebanon Chamber of Commerce moving forward

Since May 22, 2023, the Lebanon Area Chamber of Commerce has a new Executive Director.

Ashley Mahan has a long job history of working with businesses at various banks in Lebanon.

"It is an exciting challenge just because with me not having much history with the Chamber, it's me learning how everything works. Once I have all that figured out, it's going to be a lot of fun. I'm excited to see the future," Mahan said.

After graduating from Conway in 2007, Mahan moved to Lebanon in 2012.

"I've been familiar with the community my whole life," Mahan said.

Mahan, 34, began her Lebanon work experience at the Vanity Fair Mall and worked there part-time for five years.

"I started looking around, and Commerce Bank was hiring, but it was for a part-time teller. I thought that might get my foot in the door, and we'll see what happens. That was when I started in banking and just kind of worked my way up from there. Now I'm here," Mahan said.

She honed her people and finan-

cial skills by becoming a financial services representative at Commerce Bank before moving to Heritage Bank as a customer service representative for two years.

The positions that may have helped prepare her for her Chamber of Commerce job the most came when she moved to U.S. Bank and worked as a business banking specialist followed by an assistant relationship manager spot and finally a business banking relationship analyst.

"With U.S. Bank, I was able to work with businesses a lot closer. They weren't all in the Lebanon community. I actually went all the way up to Franklin County with some of the businesses I worked with. I did become really familiar with businesses and business owners and that kind of thing. This opportunity came up, and it just seemed like the right time. It was the perfect fit," Mahan said.

The Chamber of Commerce Board took applications for the executive director position before its 10 members selected Mahan.



Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Ashley Mahan stands outside the old Chamber location at 186 N. Adams.

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She has some ideas about how to keep the Chamber moving forward.

"I would like to look at maybe doing some more events and things just to draw in more of the community in the sense of maybe younger people and be a little more relevant on social media and our website and go a little bit digital with some of that stuff. I know that helps," Mahan said.

She would also like to go to more businesses and have events like the June after hours event at the Bistro just to get the community out to meet each other and network.

"I just foresee me doing a lot more of those things once I get my feet under me here," Mahan said.

She identified the purpose of the Chamber of Commerce.

"We help promote businesses that are members," Mahan said.

That promotion might include sharing information with other members via the Chamber's newsletter, on social media or on the radio during the Chamber Talk program.

"We also host those networking events that are normally just for members only,



so it's an exclusive event that you get to join and just meet other people and promote your own business that way," Mahan said.

She said during her Commerce Bank days, she attended some of the Chamber's events.

"It's a lot more than I realized, but it's really exciting, honestly, because I feel this is a great way to help business owners and do more for the community. I found a little passion for that that I didn't know I had," Mahan said.

She plans to closely partner



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with the Lebanon-REDI organization headed by Brian Thompson to get a heads up about new businesses coming to Lebanon that would benefit from joining the Chamber.

"I would love to know when those businesses are coming and maybe meet them right away because we want to give a really great impression of our community and let them know we're all here to help and make them feel welcome and comfortable," Mahan said.

She would also like to be strong partners with the Downtown Lebanon organization and the county and city officials so that she is in the know about local businesses and what affects them.

"It's really important to be really strong partners with all of them," Mahan said.

She was in the first class of Leadership Lebanon, which she recommends as an opportunity to learn a lot about Lebanon and Laclede County.

Former Executive Director Darrell Pollock served for over 12 years.

"That's kind of my goal is to stay here as long as I can, and so far, I know I'm going to love it here doing this. It's going to be really great, and I feel good for what I'm doing," Mahan said.

Members of the Chamber of Commerce pay annual dues that vary based on what kind of business they own. However, the base price is \$225 to join.

To generate ways to improve the Chamber, she has networked with other Chamber directors in the area to get their feedback on what a Chamber of Commerce can do for its members.

"That's something really important to me is to make sure we're providing value for the dues that you're paying. We want you to feel like your money is not just coming to the Chamber or you're not getting anything out of it," Mahan said.

Face-to-face meetings and relationship building are high on her list of priorities since she sees making connections as important.

Mahan has two daughters, Remi and Keelie, ages 15 and 16, who attend LHS and play soccer. They are community-minded as well.

"They did Serve Lebanon and they both really, really enjoyed that where they got to go do community service through the school, and they got to walk the dogs at Claws and Paws. It was just a lot of fun for them," Mahan said.

The girls are also members of the Junior Optimists for which Mahan is a sponsor.

She is married to Brett Mahan who works for Summit Gas.

She and Brett have two blue heelers, also known as Australian cattle dogs, that need activity.

"Brett and I, we like to take them to different parks and just walk them and



**Ashley Mahan and Carrie York**, one of her part-time assistants, decide on the day's agenda.

take little mini adventures," Mahan said.

She has two part-time assistants, Carrie York and Erin Jemes, whom she credits with keeping the Chamber of Commerce running well during the transition.

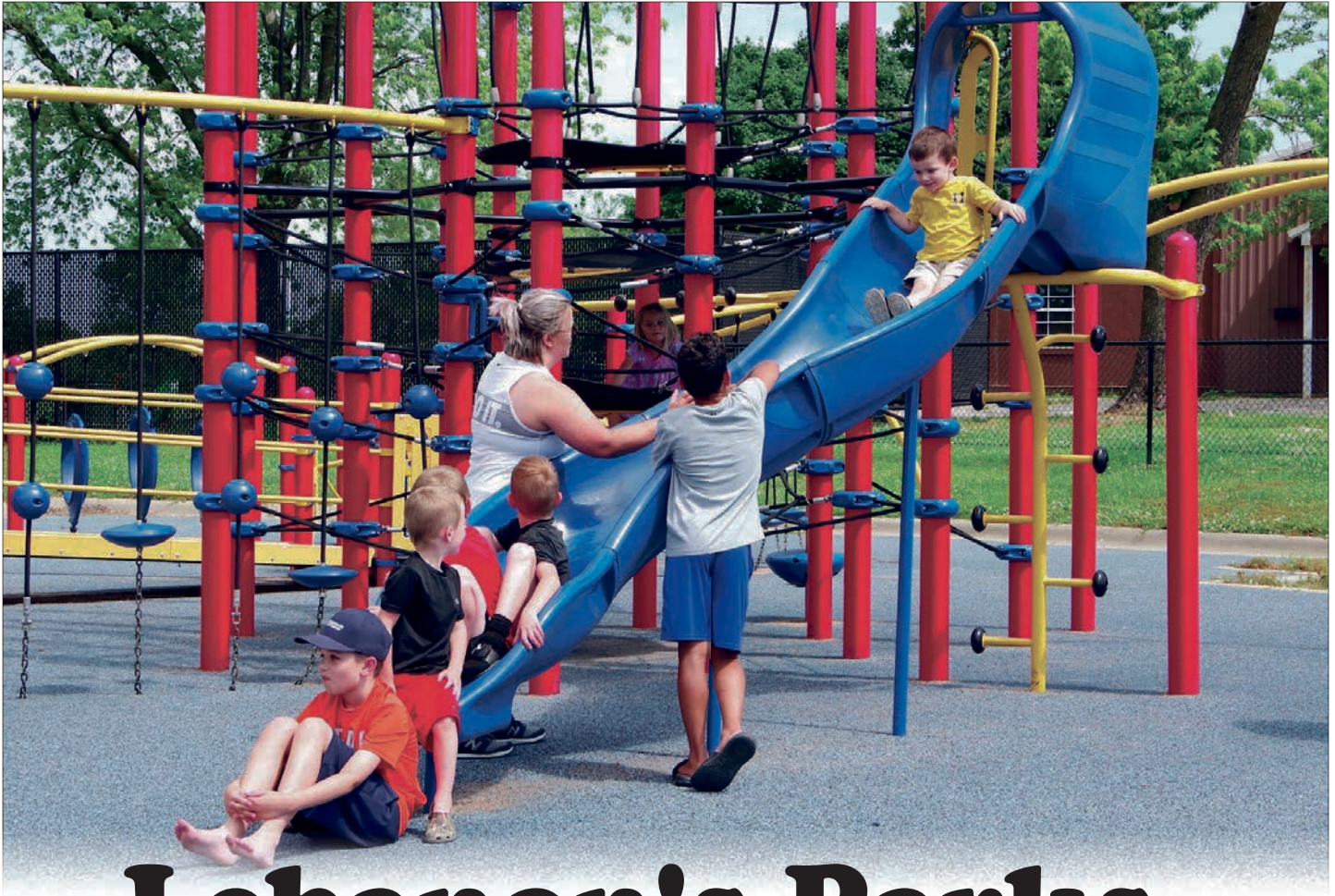
Ashley Mahan has a clear vision of what she wants for the Lebanon Chamber of Commerce.

"I want to make it the best that I can. It's really important," Mahan said.



A large advertisement banner for Shelter Insurance. The background is dark blue with a red wavy line. On the left is the Shelter Insurance logo, which is a shield-shaped emblem with "SHELTER INSURANCE" written inside. To the right of the logo is the slogan "We're your Shield. We're your Shelter." in white text. Below the slogan are two columns of contact information. The first column features a headshot of Ralph Pitts, a man with a beard and mustache, wearing a suit and tie. Next to his photo is his name "Ralph Pitts" in bold, followed by his address "112 East Commercial Street, Lebanon, MO 65536", his phone number "BUS. 417-532-6106", and his email "email: RPitts@ShelterInsurance.com". The second column features a headshot of Kim Breeden, a woman with blonde hair, smiling. Next to her photo is her name "Kim Breeden" in bold, followed by her address "120 W. Commercial, Lebanon, MO. 65536", her phone number "BUS. (417) 532-4329", and her email "email: KBreeden@ShelterInsurance.com". At the bottom of the banner, the website "ShelterInsurance.com" is written in white text on a dark blue background.





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# Gasconade Park

Located at 4th street and Harrison, the 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 history of the park, "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 for 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, which was located at the former Nelson Park.

He said 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.

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# 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 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 three shelters for picnicking and restrooms.

It also has a well-utilized, one-mile walking trail. It also includes two lighted tennis courts, an 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 recently 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. The \$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 Route 66-themed as well. The refurbished park includes three 10-by-20 foot Route 66-themed murals, a replica Route 66 fountain, a new shelter and a Route 66-themed playground.



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- 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
- Fenced playground
- Soccer field
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## Harke Park

- Harke Park, at 2901 National Street, has these features:
- A gazebo that includes lights, 20 amps of electric and barbecue grill
  - Half-mile paved walking trail
  - Playground
  - Restrooms
  - Picnic area with 2 barbecue grills
  - Soccer field

## W.T. Vernon Park

W.T. Vernon Park is located in Lebanon's historic Old Town District on Mayfield Street.

- W.T. Vernon Park's features:
- One Shelter
  - Playground
  - Restrooms

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# Nelson Park

Nelson Park is the newest in the Lebanon Park System. The park is a joint venture between the City of Lebanon and Lebanon R-III Schools.

Nelson Park's features:

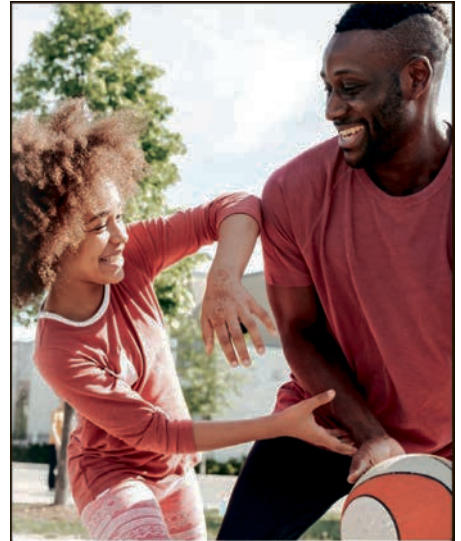
- Four ball diamonds
- A concession stand and restrooms, Wi-Fi, T-Ball fields
- Playground
- Walking trails
- Connectivity to the State of Missouri Coleman Conservation Area



## Nelson Lake

Nelson Lake's features:

- Catch and release fishing lake
- A quarter-mile lighted walking trail and a picnic area



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# New attraction for Downtown

## Arches come to Lebanon

This year, a new addition came to Downtown Lebanon that was designed to enhance the business area.

Before they were installed, Cynthia Coffman, executive director of the Downtown Business District, explained how the new arches over Commercial Street at Jefferson would attract visitors to Lebanon.

"The Downtown Lebanon gateway arches will provide a focal point and memorable landmark in the heart of our community," she said. "Thousands of cars and trucks travel Highway 5 through the business district every day, but many drivers never look left or right and notice Commercial Street. Arches are designed to attract the eye and create an inviting

space that people are curious to explore.

"The arches also will help visitors and locals find their way to restaurants, shopping and services. Imagine being able to say, 'Drive down Jefferson till you see the arches that say Downtown Lebanon, then turn on our main street and stay awhile,'" she said.

The idea for the arches originated

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before the pandemic when Downtown Business District Board Member Melody Allen went on a family trip to Lawrenceburg, Ind.

"She and her family saw an arch in that downtown, and she said the minute they saw it, they turned around and took pictures. She thought this would be a really interesting thing to do in Lebanon to mark where the downtown business district is. She brought back pictures and shared them with (City Administrator) Mike Schumacher and other people with the city," Coffman said.

At that point, Allen began doing research and found the people in Indiana were very helpful with information, according to Coffman.

"They offered any sort of support that we might need," she said. Her feeling was if they can do it, Lebanon can do it, too. The pandemic slowed down the process some. Discussion picked up at some point last year.

It was discussed throughout the summer of 2021. August 2021 is when the city offered financial help for the project if downtown wanted to pursue it.

"It looks like that is when it started to become more serious and go from concept to an actual plan," Coffman said. In late 2021, the City Council approved a task force to get someone to work on the designs. Olsson Studio was selected for the job, and their first drawings were circulated in March.

Discussion about where to put the arches began in mid-March, and the first rendering showed the arches taking

up eight parking spaces.

Olsson was asked to go back and only use one space on each corner.

The arches were installed in May 2023.

"Downtown Lebanon's arches welcome visitors and residents to the revital-

ized main street where local businesses are eager to serve you," Coffman said. "We're always pleased when someone tells us the arches caused them to stop and stay awhile. In Lebanon, our town truly is your town."



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# Looking for something fresh?

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

The Lebanon's Farmers Market has been a local staple for years, but it got a facelift thanks to a \$264,000 project approved by 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 on Wednesday afternoons from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. starting in April.

According to Bolden, many people don't know that sales at the Farmers Markets are regulated by guidelines from the Missouri Department of Agriculture, Missouri Department of Health and the County Health Departments. Bolden is still accepting vendors for the season, so if you need more information you may call her at 417-426-5690 or her cell phone 314-608-9848.

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**Route 66 Farmer's Market**

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

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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 throughout 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 new 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.

Throughout the week, area youth will be showing animals that they have raised from cows to rabbits. The week culminates with a big sale of champions where people can bid on the winning livestock.

The fair is also host to nightly events. One of the newest events at the fair is the Ranch Rodeo. Competitions at the rodeo include mugging, trailer loading, branding, sorting and a calf scramble for the kids.

First place 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 sale of champions happening 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. On certain nights, all-you-can-ride wristbands can be purchased.

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 started showing livestock there as a kid.

He says the chance to help youth is one of the things that's 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."

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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 beautiful 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 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.





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The Lebanon-Area Chamber of Commerce had a ribbon cutting at the dedication of the new Alumni Plaza, which is located at the former high school and junior high grounds of the Lebanon R-3 School District.



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# Hooked on Bennett Spring



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.

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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.

Records indicate that James Brice came here from Illinois in search of productive land and a healthful climate.

He decided to stay at the beautiful spring area, which reportedly teemed with wildlife. Elk, deer, wild turkeys, buffaloes and even panthers were said to drink from the enormous spring.

Brice homesteaded 160 acres, which included the spring, and eventually

homesteaded additional acreage that included all of the land and spring branch area. He built the first mill in the vicinity where early-day farmers brought their corn for grinding.

The mill eventually was washed away during a violent rainstorm and flood.

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. Bennett built a second mill known as Bennett's Mill during the Civil War years, and it became a center for tradesmen and farmers.

The mill was too small to accommodate the increase in business, so Bennett built a third mill and included a carding machine that prepared wool for the spinning wheel. He also built a sawmill in one section of the mill.

As business continued to grow, Bennett decided to construct a three-story

building, and he purchased equipment for it in St. Louis.

Since the railroad track went only to Rolla, Bennett and his employees had to meet the train there and haul the equipment to Brice in ox-driven wagons — a slow process over the rocky fords of that time.

Peter Bennett married Anna Brice, the daughter of homesteader James Brice. After Brice's death, Peter and Anna inherited the property.

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. Others who operated the mill in later years were J.E. Kelly, Mr. Runge and B.J. Usery. The mill stood as a landmark at Bennett Spring for sightseers and tradesmen alike. The Civilian Conservation Corps, which worked in the area during the 1930s, improved the mill. However, it later was destroyed by fire. ▶▶



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The CCC also constructed a log dam, foot trails, a new bridge and many other buildings at the park.

The spring valley already had become a popular camping site in the late 1800s as an area where farmers waited their turns at the mill. According to a Missouri Department of Natural Resources

(DNR) brochure, campers would fish, hunt or visit with local townspeople to pass the time.

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.

The Brice Post Office originally was built as a log building on the river bank and named after James Brice. In later years, it was located in a general store operated by William Sherman Bennett and his wife, Louie. The name of the post office was changed to Bennett Spring in 1939 and finally was discontinued in 1965. Arlie Bramwell was the last postmaster at Bennett Spring.

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.

Brice was the location where famed author Harold Bell Wright completed work on his classic novel, "The Shepherd of the Hills." Wright also wrote "The Calling of Dan Matthews" while he lived in Lebanon.

In that book, Wright's "Gordon's Mill" actually was Bennett's Mill.

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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.

“Aunt Louie” Bennett was pastor of the church for many years. Today, Bennett Spring Church of God is a very active church and is visited by many fishermen staying at the park each trout season.

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.

Much work was done at Bennett Spring starting in November of that year. The crews’ first tasks were to build barracks for themselves.

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



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## Bennett Spring State Park

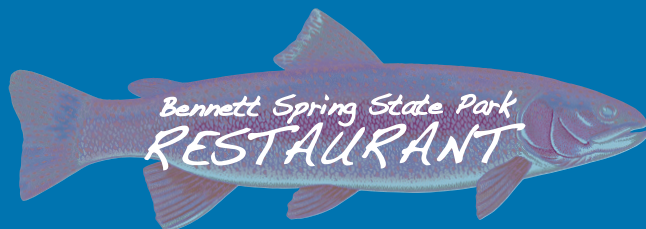
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a new section onto the hatchery building. After the men left in 1938, they dismantled all but one of their barracks.

Through the years most of the development at the park has taken place outside of the park's boundaries as private individuals built cabins, hotels, campgrounds and many other businesses. In 1969, Arlie Bramwell sold his wood and stone cabins to the state. Ralph User'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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The people of Lebanon decided in the late 1990s they needed a cultural hub, a place they could hold everything from weddings and graduation ceremonies to plays and concerts.

They voted for a Capital Improve-

ments Tax that funded the building of the Kenneth E. Cowan Civic Center, which is named for a former mayor of the city. Now not a weekend goes by that something isn't going on at the CCC.

It holds a theater, an exhibition hall,

an atrium, meeting rooms and the Lebanon Family YMCA.

Considered by many to be "the crown jewel of Lebanon," it also hosts the Wall of Honor, which depicts dozens of citizens who have contributed



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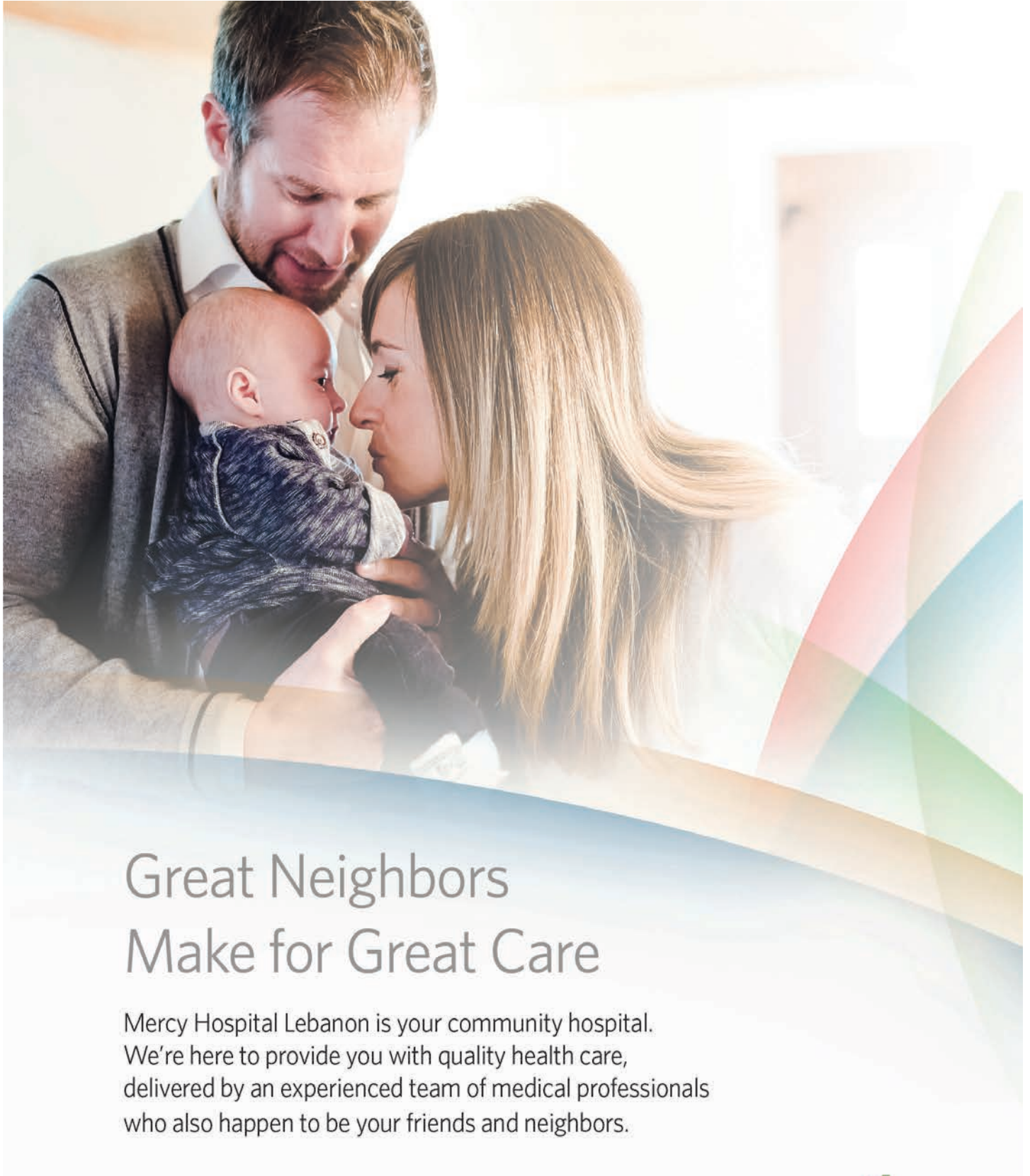
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greatly to the community.

The variety of events and activities at the CCC is amazing. While the city's main tourism draws are outdoor, warm weather activities such as visiting Bennett Spring State Park and cruising on old Route 66, the CCC brings visitors to the city year-round.

The indoor facility is big enough to house numerous events that bring in visitors. Demolition derbies, bull riding events and the state horseshoe pitching and cornhole championships take place there each year. The CCC serves as a venue for the Lebanon High School graduation ceremony and hosts various plays for schools in the theater. Local lovebirds also take advantage of the site for weddings and receptions.

The parking lot is used for car shows and outdoor movies for the community.

Probably the most popular event for the CCC has been the Gospel Music Spectacular, drawing top-shelf gospel artists and their fans from all over the country.

The CCC also serves as the site for a humongous community wide garage sale twice a year, gun shows, educational seminars about everything from alpaca wool to economic development and a high school percussion artists competition.

In December 2020, the city completed work on renovations at the civic center. Improvements include a new indoor walking trail and covered canopy, new carpet in the theater, fresh paint, polished and stained concrete, new doors, new LED lighting throughout and new signage. The improvements were paid for through a capital improvements tax passed by voters.

The Cowan Civic Center Administrative Office's operating hours are Monday - Friday: 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m.

You can get information about rental space at the Cowan Civic Center by calling (417) 532-4642 ext. 2470

The Lebanon Family YMCA is located at the Cowan Civic Center, but it is managed separately. For more information

on them, please visit <http://www.orymca.org/leb.html> or call (417) 588-1177. The entrance to the YMCA is from the back parking lot of the Civic Center.

The Lebanon Family YMCA's operating hours are:

Monday - Friday: 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Saturday: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Civic Center is also home to the City of Lebanon Tourism office. The phone number is 844-4LEBANON.

The Center houses the Lebanon Area Foundation/Community Cares office, which provides social, educational, cultural and other charitable needs throughout the Lebanon area with the help of donors. The Foundation is fully tax-exempt under sections 501(C)3 and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The Lebanon Area Chamber of Commerce, which serves member business in the Lebanon area, is the newest tenant in the Civic Center. The phone number for the Chamber office is 417-588-3256.

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**Find more info about  
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page 46**

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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 USRA-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.midwayspeedway.net](http://www.midwayspeedway.net).

The I-44 Speedway at 24069 Route 66 is planning a grand re-opening Aug. 23 and 24. For more information, contact [bolsen@mesarin.com](mailto:bolsen@mesarin.com) or go to [www.srisouthwest-tour.com](http://www.srisouthwest-tour.com).

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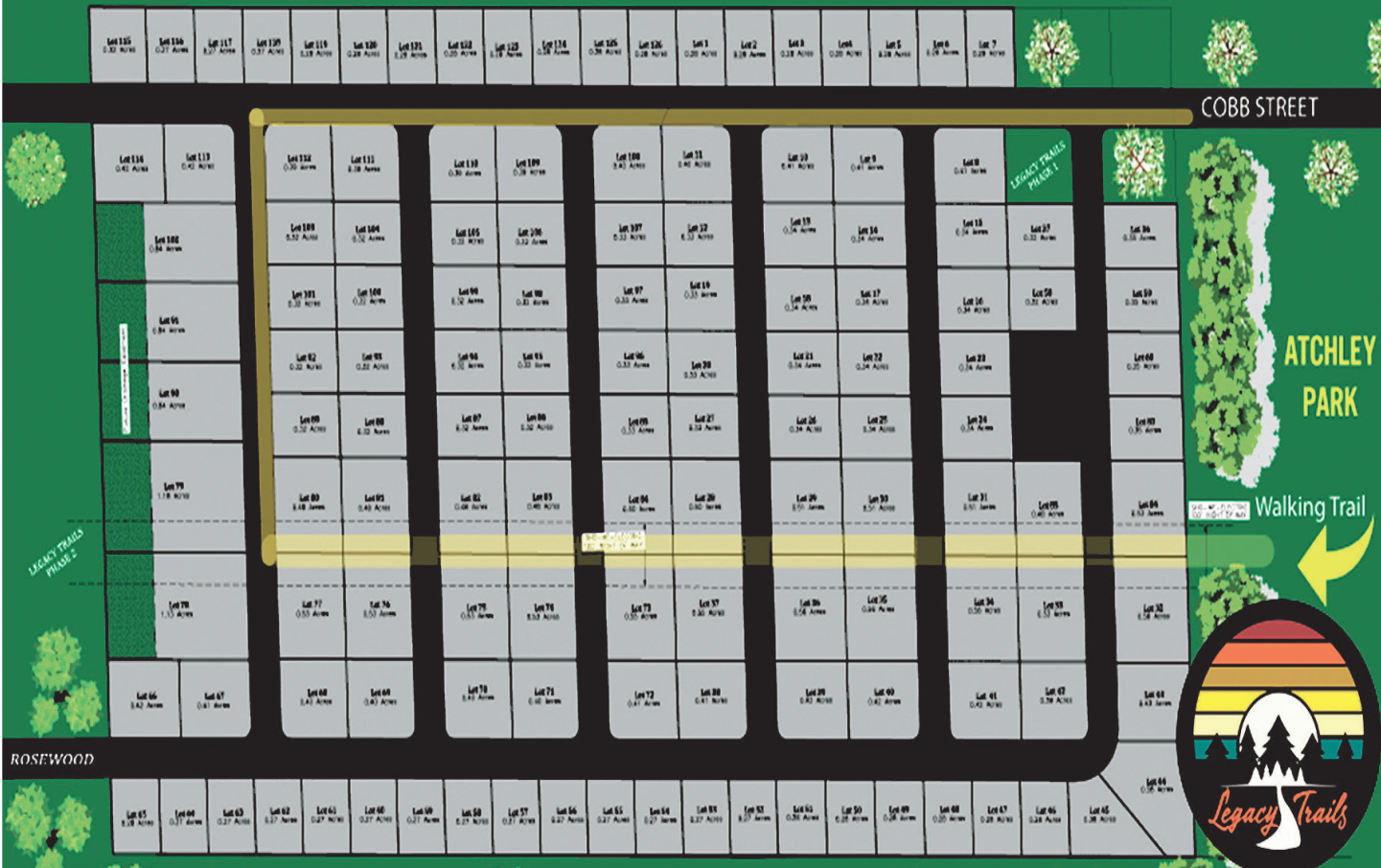


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# Christmas on Commercial



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 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. There are also inflatable bounce houses and slides for the kiddos, a photo booth, live music, sleigh rides, cookie decorating and dance performances.

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



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# Santa Claus 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.



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## Wagons for Warriors

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

Organizer Steve Hull said it looked to be the event's biggest year ever for people attending.

Hull said he knew there were more than 3,000 people in attendance.

"It was lot bigger than previous years," he said. "It was a great event. The parade was well received, we had a lot of wagons and teams in the parade and a lot of people waving. The parade went well."

The annual event is a fundraiser to help veterans.

Kent Rollins held a cooking class that attracted a record number of people.

Friday evening, a dinner was held for the chuck wagon members.

"We had a nice dinner for the wagon people," he 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 a total \$113,400 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. ▶▶



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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.

"We owe the veterans so much. We fly that flag with honor every day, and wherever we're cooking, that flag is above that wagon," Rollins said.

Hull said the donation he may be most 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.

# WF WAGONS FOR WARRIORS

"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."

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," he said. "It's good for the veterans, and it's also good for the City of Lebanon."

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# New addition drops anchor in Veterans Park

The helicopter and tank in Lebanon's Veterans Memorial Park have now been joined by a 30,000-pound ship's anchor.

The anchor 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 out-of-service Bell AH-1 Cobra military helicopter and Sherman Tank already on display at the Lebanon Veterans' Memorial Park

City of Lebanon Communications Manager Derek Gean said the new addition to the park continues the city's tradition of saluting its veterans.

"We are excited to see the addition of an anchor to our veteran's park," he said. "Our hope is to see the anchor installed by Veterans Day. We want to express our

gratitude to Steve Hull from Wagons for Warriors, who helped find the anchor. The City of Lebanon takes pride in honoring those who have served our nation, and the displays at our veteran's park is just one small way we can demonstrate our appreciation for their sacrifices."

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

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.

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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.

A helicopter and tank were placed on display in Lebanon's Veterans Memorial Monday in 2022.

The display was officially dedicated in a Veterans Day ceremony.

It consists of a Cobra AH-1 helicopter and a General Sherman U.S. Army Medium tank M4A3E8.

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 worked to paint and restore 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.

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.



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# BALANCING CFO AND MAYOR DUTIES

## Mayor Carr runs family business while serving community

Lebanon's mayor is balancing the demands of a full-time job with the duties required of the city's top elected official.

Jared Carr said he has gotten better at juggling the private workplace and city hall.

"Sometimes you get pulled in a lot of different directions," he said. "One of the best things I've learned is when to say 'No' or I can't do that right now. That's helped balance out time between work, being mayor, and of course, family," he said.

Carr was first appointed by the City Council to fill the vacancy created when former Mayor Josh Ray unexpectedly resigned in 2017. He was elected to a full four-year term as mayor in 2020.

He continues to work at Carmeco, Inc., a metal fabricating company in Lebanon. Carr had a quick response when asked to describe a typical week juggling his public and private roles.

"Late nights, early mornings and everything in between," he replied.

"Being in a small business, you never know what you're going to get when you walk in the door, and that's the fun thing about it," he said. "Just yesterday I was doing programming and then had people come in with a totally different problem, I had to jump off, put on a completely different hat and fix that."

Carr performs a variety of duties and sometimes helps out filling orders at his private job.

"I had to run parts last night. I've still got grease under my fingernails, in fact, from last night, but it was fun. It breaks it up," he said.

He typically spends 9 until noon Tuesdays and Thursdays at City Hall to handle mayoral duties.

"If Carmeco needs me for something, I can leave here, and if I need more time here, I can leave Carmeco as well," he said. "Of course, that makes it so some nights I have to work a little later after I come up here and work later."

Carr says he came to office without any set agenda.

"I came in with a pretty open mind about wanting to make this the best place to live and make it a place my kids will want to come back to," he said.

"If there's some opportunity here they don't have or if their life takes them someplace else, at least they're proud to say I'm from Lebanon and carry on the traditions of Lebanon wherever they go in the world."

He graduated Lebanon High School and has lived in the area all of his life except for the time he was in college. After moving back in 2004, he started working for the family-owned company, Carmeco, Inc., which his grandfather started in 1970. He is chief financial officer and in charge of IT at Carmeco.

"We've been in the community for many years and been a part of it and being in the industrial part of it plugs you into seeing what people need around town and helping out employees," he said. "My Dad's always preached to me to be willing to serve and be willing to give back some time. I have no problem giving back to the community that's given me so much."

Carr said he was not an expert on city issues coming into the job, but has tried to bring a fresh approach to the position.

"I feel like I bring a mix of newer ideas with the old school way of doing what you say you're going to do," he said.

The council is making progress at getting things done, but Carr said, "I can't take credit for it, I'm just there to oversee it, but the city staff really has all these ideas they bring to us. The city employees are really looking out for the citizens and customers of Lebanon," he said. "Actually getting the work done and accomplished is something I attribute to them and Mike (Schumacher), the new city administrator and all the department heads. Maybe I have had something to do with that, but they've opened up to the fact that, hey, we can do things and we can look at ways to make this a better community for everybody that decides to live here."

The city is using the results of a survey conducted last year to find issues that need to be addressed.

"All we're doing is taking the highlighted points of that survey and turning them into things we can actually



**Lebanon Mayor Jared Carr** delivers the State of the City address at a Lebanon Rotary Club meeting in February 2023.

do for the customers," Carr said. "City staff has been fantastic on that. I can't commend them enough."

Carr is also active in the Lebanon Rotary Club where he has chaired Pancake Day and the Choices program for the middle school.

He and his wife have kids who are active in sports and school activities.

Carr said his door is always open to anyone who has concerns or questions.

"I may not have the answer and it may not be the answer they want to hear, but I'm open to any suggestion that will help make a better community for us," he said.





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Forbes released a 2023 listing of the Best Banks in Each State. Overall, 164 awards were given to 137 unique financial institutions.



**First State Community Bank**

...ects and services they offer," he said. "We think it's a testament to our staff on how we take care of our community. We think it's great to be recognized by our customers."

To create the list, Forbes partnered with market research firm Statista and surveyed approximately 31,000 U.S. residents. Forbes

15 or more U.S. states—like Bank of America, JPMorgan Chase, Wells Fargo and Navy Federal Credit Union—were excluded so that the lists reflect the best of the smaller, regional institutions.

Online reviews and ratings posted on Google Reviews between March 9 and April 2023 were evaluated for each bank and credit union. Reviews and ratings averaged 4.0 out of 5.0, while the surveys

## FSCB charity golf tournament reaches \$1 million in donations

LCK STAFF  
KENTON@LACLEDERECORD.COM

What started out as a one-time golfing event has evolved up to and beyond Lebanon. The Conway Senior Center and The Neighborhood Center both received \$1,500 for their most programs.

Lebanon's Love Your Neighbor project will use the funds to continue aiding disabled, elderly or ill residents who can't keep their property up to city standards. Volunteers help with projects ranging from mowing lawns and painting ramps and porches.

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The First State Community Bank County Golf for Lebanon raised \$1 million in donations for local charities.

## FSCB CONWAY CUSTOMER WINS \$9,000 GRAND GIVEAWAY PRIZE



Grand GIVEAWAYS \$9,000



## FSCB Lebanon Customer Wins NYC Trip; Hotel for 2, Broadway Show Tickets & 5,000 Spending Cash!



Thank you to First State Community Bank for investing in the future of our Downtown Lebanon Missouri.

# Committed to You.

First State Community Bank aims to help every customer reach their specific financial goals. Whether you're starting your child's first savings account or are expanding your business, we're here to help with all the products and services you need. Plus, we are local people who care about our community and its future. That's why we have a genuine passion for Laclede County.

Welcome to Lebanon! Remember, that when it comes to your finances, success starts here.



**VOTED LACLEDE COUNTY'S BEST**  
 • Bank • Financial Institution  
 • Mortgage/Home Loan Provider  
 • Auto Loan Provider  
**FOR THE SECOND YEAR IN A ROW!**

Success Starts Here.



First State Community Bank

**Main Bank Downtown:**  
101 West Commercial Street  
**North Lebanon:**  
950 Lynn Street  
**South Lebanon:**  
1419 South Jefferson Avenue

**Inside Wal-Mart:**  
1800 South Jefferson Avenue  
**Conway, Missouri:**  
602 West Jefferson Avenue

**(417) 532-2151**

**fscb.com**

**LEBANON** | (417) 532-2151 | **CONWAY** | (417) 589-8916  
NMLS# 412605