

# THE CATALYST



July 2024

*Columbus Days 2024: The Big 5-0*  
**Celebrating 50 Years of Columbus Days!**

COLUMBUS DAYS

**THE BIG**

**50**

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF COLUMBUS DAYS  
AUGUST 8-11 // DOWNTOWN COLUMBUS



Thank you  
**PLATINUM SPONSORS**



Be sure to mark your calendars because Columbus Days is back in action from August 8th to 11th, celebrating a massive milestone – "The Big 5-0: 50 Years of Columbus Days!" It's going to be a weekend packed with nostalgia, excitement, and new adventures for everyone in the family.

We're kicking off the festivities bright and early on Thursday, August 8th, at 7:00 am with the beloved Christian Prayer Breakfast at the Immanuel Family Life Center. But that's just the beginning of the fun!

This year, we're bringing back some crowd favorite events of the past that have made Columbus Days a community tradition. From the epic Foam Dance Party that's a blast for all ages, to the thrilling, yet hilarious Bed Races, the entertaining Mr. Beefcakes Pageant, and the vibrant Color Fun Run – get ready for endless entertainment!

New this year, we are introducing The Cutie Crawl where cute, crawling babies will race for fun prizes, and the kids Power Wheel Races zooming down 13th Street in a drag race you won't want to miss.

And let's not forget some of last year's favorite events that will be returning like the Friday Night Parade, the delicious BBQ Classic, and

the energetic Street Dances featuring performances by the Nebraska All-Star Rock & Roll Band on Friday night, and Eckophonics on Saturday Night!

For more information on each event or to register for events, grab your entry forms and event information from the Chamber office or online at [COLUMBUSDAYS.COM](http://COLUMBUSDAYS.COM). Stay updated with all the latest news by following our website and the 'Columbus Days' Facebook page.

If you're interested in sponsoring an event or volunteering, reach out to Sandie at [sfischer@columbuschamber.org](mailto:sfischer@columbuschamber.org) or 402-564-2769.

Let's come together to celebrate our community and the incredible 50-year journey of Columbus Days!

## NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS...

- » Mark Your Calendar
- » Thank You Sponsors
- » Commodore Visits



## Something Good Spotlight

### Highlights from the June Entrepreneur Networking Meeting

On June 6th, the Entrepreneur Networking Meeting welcomed guest speaker Kara Allbaugh from Rival Design. Kara shared her inspiring journey from being a self-taught graphic designer working for various businesses to launching her own design and marketing firm. Today, Kara not only runs a successful business but also leads a talented team dedicated to helping other entrepreneurs meet their marketing needs.

Kara also spoke about the challenges and triumphs of starting a business from scratch. She emphasized the importance of perseverance, continuous learning, and the willingness to take risks. Moreover, Kara provided valuable insights into how Rival Design can assist entrepreneurs in enhancing their brand presence and achieving their marketing goals.

#### Upcoming July Meeting: Featuring Lynsay Luchsinger

Looking ahead, our next meeting is scheduled for July 2nd. We are excited to host Lynsay Luchsinger, CEO of Franchise Capital Solutions and Co-Owner of Tropical Smoothie Cafe in Columbus and Omaha. Lynsay will share her entrepreneurial journey within the franchise world, providing insights into the opportunities and challenges of managing franchise businesses.



#### Join Us for Future Meetings

Our monthly networking gatherings offer a fantastic chance to connect with fellow professionals who share an entrepreneurial spirit. Mark your calendars, invite your friends to join us on the first Tuesday of every month at the Columbus Innovation Center!

These meetings are proudly organized in partnership by Columbus In Action, the Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Entrepreneurship Center at Central Community College.

## Drive for Five Update

### Reintroducing Our Enhanced Job Board

We are excited to reintroduce our Job Board, a valuable platform for local businesses to post open positions. Our initiative aims to support economic growth and provide opportunities for job seekers in our community. Whether you're a startup looking for fresh talent or an established company expanding its workforce, our Job Board serves as a convenient way to connect employers with potential employees.

It caters to a variety of skill levels and industries, ensuring inclusivity in the job market. By helping to create these connections, we stay true to our goal of nurturing a successful business environment in Columbus and the surrounding areas. Reintroducing the Job Board is part of our ongoing efforts to support local businesses and job seekers.

The Job Board is now available exclusively to our Chamber members and workforce investors. You can access it on our website ([thecolumbuspage.com](http://thecolumbuspage.com)) under the "Resources" tab, or directly at [members.thecolumbuspage.com/jobs](http://members.thecolumbuspage.com/jobs).

For more information, please contact Haley Behlen at [hbehlen@columbuschamber.org](mailto:hbehlen@columbuschamber.org) or Rylee Seim at [rseim@columbuschamber.org](mailto:rseim@columbuschamber.org).



**Job Postings**

Our job board features local job openings from employers who are ready to hire!

Learn more at:  
[members.thecolumbuspage.com/jobs](http://members.thecolumbuspage.com/jobs)

# Mark Your Calendar

Join us for an **ENTREPRENEUR  
MONTHLY NETWORKING MEETING**

**TUESDAY, JULY 2**

5-7 PM

INNOVATION CENTER  
2311 14th Street

### GUEST SPEAKER

*Lynsae Luchsinger*

FRANCHISE CAPITAL SOLUTIONS  
& TROPICAL SMOOTHIE CAFE

- 15-min Speaker at 5:45 pm
- Bring your business cards
- Promote your business
- Learn from others
- Meet people who can improve your business



**COLUMBUS**  
AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
CITY OF POWER AND PROGRESS



**YOU'RE INVITED!**

## **BUSINESSPERSONS' BREAKFAST**

July 11, 2024 | 7:00 am | Ag Park

**GUEST SPEAKER**

**Dr. June Loseke**

co-owner of  
Loseke Veterinary Services



CALL THE CHAMBER TO RSVP  
**402-564-2769**

# *Business* **AFTER HOURS**



HOSTED BY



**American  
Foundation  
for Suicide  
Prevention**

Nebraska

**Eat.  
Drink.  
Network.**

*Let's get social!*



**JULY 15TH • 5:00 - 6:30 PM**

OAK ROOM OF COLUMBUS, 1270 27TH AVE

# Community Partner Spotlight

## ALLO Fiber Expands Business Line with Advanced Cyber Security Solutions

ALLO Fiber recently added to their lineup of amazing products. ALLO Business encompasses the future of cyber security, including next generation firewalls to ALLO Smart business making it a more affordable firewall aimed at smaller businesses that still want and need the protection of a firewall. As cyberattacks become more common and sophisticated, as well as corporate networks that are becoming more complex, a variety of cyber security solutions are required to mitigate corporate cyber risk.



Navigate the evolving landscape of digital threats with confidence. ALLO Cyber Security stands as your vigilant guardian, offering proactive defense, comprehensive risk management, and strategic security planning.

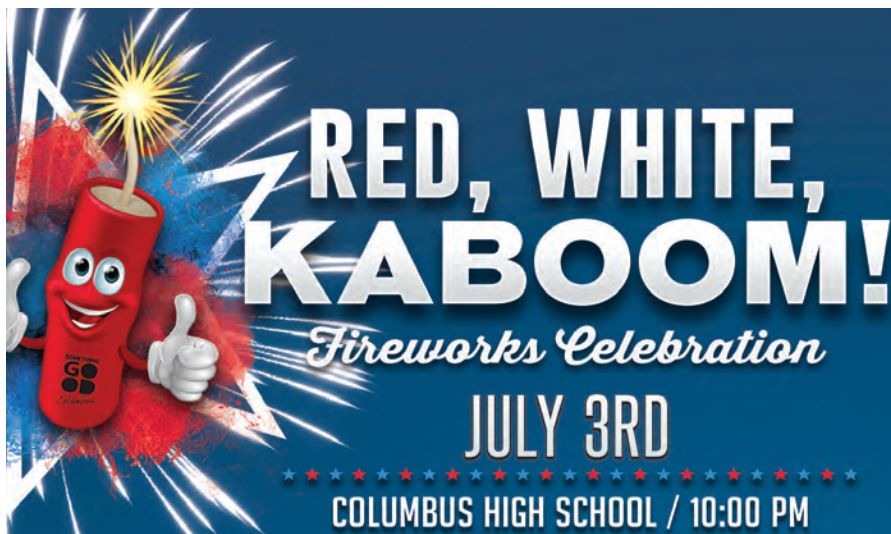
### Some facts about cyber security:

- 46% of all cyber breaches impact businesses with fewer than 1,000 employees.
- 61% of small to medium businesses were the target of a Cyberattack in 2021.
- 37% of companies hit by ransomware had fewer than 100 employees.
- Small businesses receive the highest rate of targeted malicious emails at one in 323.
- 55% of people in the U.S. would be less likely to continue doing business with companies that are breached.
- 95% of cyber security incidents at small to medium businesses cost between \$826 and \$653,587.
- In 2020 alone, there were over 700,000 attacks against small businesses, totaling \$2.8 billion in damages.
- Nearly 40% of small businesses reported they lost crucial data as a result of an attack.
- 75% of Small to medium businesses could not continue operating if they were hit with ransomware.
- Just 17% of small businesses have cyber insurance.
- 51% of small businesses have no cyber security measures in place at all.
- 80% of all hacking incidents involve compromised credentials or passwords.
- Antivirus software (58%), firewalls (49%), VPNs (44%), and password management (39%) are the top four cyber security tools SMBs are adopting.

Source of facts <https://www.strongdm.com/blog/small-business-cyber-security-statistics>

ALLO is here for all your cyber security questions or needs. ALLO is doing a lunch and learn for businesses in the Columbus area wanting to learn more about protecting themselves from cyber security threats. Keep an eye out for dates and details in future members to members correspondence. In the meantime, please call Jacob Matteson at 531-230-1704 or email at [Jacob.matteson@allofiber.com](mailto:Jacob.matteson@allofiber.com) with any questions.

# Membership Strong



*Thank You*  
to all volunteers,  
donors, and sponsors

Columbus Public Schools - Dr. Chip Kay, Leonard Kwapnioski and Staff for hosting the location of Red, White, Kaboom!

Mayor Jim Bulkley, Tara Vasicek, and Betsy Eckhardt of City of Columbus, along with their team

Chief Sherer and the Columbus Police Department

Tim Hofbauer and the Platte County Emergency Management team of volunteers

The Platte County Sheriff, Ed Wemhoff and officers

Columbus Fire Department, Chief Ryan Gray, and their staff

Midwest Pyrotechnics

## Kaboom!-Level Sponsors:



Helping the world thrive

### Red-Level Sponsors

BD Medical  
B-D Construction  
Central Community College  
Columbus Community Hospital  
Columbus Credit Services  
D and R Roofing  
Eakes Office Solutions  
First Nebraska Bank  
Gene Steffy Ford  
Harrah's Columbus NE Racing & Casino  
Louie's Liquor Columbus  
Loup Power District  
Massman Family  
Platte Valley Precast

### White-Level Sponsors

Ace Sanitation Service  
Partners in progress at Behlen Mfg. Co.  
Casey's Mail Service  
Columbus Bank & Trust  
Cornerstone Bank  
Pinnacle Bank  
Taco Bell  
Tuls Dairies  
Viridis Chemical Company

### Blue-Level Sponsors

Access Electrical Systems  
Audio Video Specialist  
Bank of the Valley  
Bierman Contracting  
Brookestone Acres  
Columbus Area Convention & Visitors Bureau  
Columbus Children's Healthcare  
Columbus Exposition & Racing  
Columbus Sertoma Club  
Cruise & Associates  
Deb & Tom Loseke  
Eye Physicians PC  
Family 1st Dental  
FNBO  
Jerry & Glenna Engdahl

Jim & Nancy Hanna  
Ken & Robin Curry  
Kosch Financial, Inc.  
Lindsay Corporation  
Mike Greiner's National Mattress & Furniture  
OneNebraska Federal Credit Union  
Optometric Center of Columbus  
Runza  
RVW, Inc.  
Schumacher, Smejkal, & Elm PC  
Timpte  
Union Bank & Trust  
Vishay  
Wayne & Lisa Ballentine family

# Membership Strong

## Commodore Visits (Continued)



**Jackson Services, Inc. - 100th Anniversary**  
981 33rd Ave, Columbus, NE | (402) 564-2824  
[www.jackson-services.com](http://www.jackson-services.com)



**True Ag & Turf - Ribbon Cutting**  
2526 E 23rd St, Columbus, NE | (402) 564-3289  
[www.trueagturf.com](http://www.trueagturf.com)



**Pinnacle Bank - 25th Anniversary**  
210 E 23rd St, Columbus, NE | (402) 562-8936  
[www.pinnbank.com](http://www.pinnbank.com)



**Red Door Designs - Ribbon Cutting**  
2511 13th St, Columbus, NE | (402) 276-1808  
[www.reddoorstylist.com](http://www.reddoorstylist.com)



**East Central District Health Department (Quick Care Clinic) - Ribbon Cutting**  
4321 41st Ave, Columbus, NE | (402) 562-7500  
[www.ecdhd.ne.gov](http://www.ecdhd.ne.gov)

## Upcoming Commodore Visits

- J. Rasmussen & Associates, LLC - American Family
- BeYOUTiful Wellness Studio
- Connection Christian Church
- Encompass Dental Studios, LLC
- Northwestern Mutual
- Blazer Athletic Equipment

To schedule a Commodore Visit contact Chamber office  
(402) 564-2769  
or email [info@columbuschamber.org](mailto:info@columbuschamber.org).

# Chamber Investors - Thank You!

## New Members



### STAR Escape Rooms

2705 13th St, Columbus, NE  
(531) 230-1920 | [starescaperooms.com](http://starescaperooms.com)



### Tillotson Enterprises Inc

8000 Fletcher Ave, Suite 100, Lincoln, NE  
(402) 466-7038

## May 2024 Investors

### We thank our members for their membership investment.

10 County Title & Escrow, Inc.  
Alpha Media - Columbus  
American Family Insurance -  
Katie Bargman  
American Legacy Land Co - Adam Spitz  
Angels Care Home Health  
Arbonne International  
Augusta Lawn Care of Columbus  
Bank of the Valley  
BankFirst  
Behlen Mfg. Co.  
Bierman Contracting  
Big Red Printing  
Blazer Athletic Equipment  
BMC Transportation  
Buss Realty and Auction LLC  
Central Confinement Service LLC  
Central Sand and Gravel  
Chad's Collision Center  
Christensen Concrete Products  
Columbus Area Children's Museum Inc  
Columbus Area Human Resources  
Association  
Columbus Cancer Care  
Columbus Community Hospital  
Columbus Dermatology Clinic  
Columbus Family Practice  
Columbus General Surgery  
Columbus Medical Center, P.C.  
Columbus Orthopedic & Sports  
Medicine Clinic  
Columbus Otolaryngology Clinic  
Columbus Plumbing  
Columbus Psychiatry Clinic  
Columbus Steel Supply, Inc.

Concussion Management Clinic  
Cornerstone Insurance  
Cruise & Associates  
Culligan of Columbus  
DAV Department of Nebraska  
Deets HomeStore  
Drinnin Feedlots  
Driver Chiropractic, LLC  
Duo Lift Manufacturing Company  
Educational Service Unit #7  
El Mezcal  
Eller Heating & Air Conditioning, LLC  
First National Bank  
Flint, William  
Ginger Moon & Assoc. Insurance Agency  
Grant and Grant  
H & R Block  
Hadley-Braithwait Co.  
Harrah's Columbus NE Racing & Casino  
Heartland Fire Protection  
HomeGrown Nutrition  
Hubbard Feeds  
Humphrey Medical Clinic  
Husker Trading  
Hy-Vee Food Store  
Industrial Control Systems, Inc.  
Jackson Services, Inc.  
Kuhlman & Kratochvil, P.C.  
Lakeview Community Schools  
Lambert, Ron  
Lawnco Lawn & Tree Care  
Lindsay Medical Clinic  
M & O Door Products, LLC  
Mary Kay - Cammy Otten  
Matheson Linweld

Mike's Glass Services, LLC  
Mosaic  
Motion Industries  
Nebraska Central Railroad Co.  
Nebraska Department of Health &  
Human Services  
Nebraska Irrigation, Inc.  
North Central Radiology  
Northwest Electric LLC  
Optimist Club of Columbus  
Optometric Center of Columbus, P.C.  
PEO Chapter CH  
Pizza Hut  
Pizza Ranch  
Platte County Agricultural Society  
Riverland Cabins and Campground  
Siefken, Milan  
Sunbelt Rentals  
Sundown Motel  
Sweet Harvest Popcorn Shoppe  
Thompson Driving Academy  
Tillotson Enterprises Inc  
Tran-Tec Corporation  
Tri-County Title & Escrow Company  
Trouba, Jerod Law Office  
Union Bank & Trust  
US Bank  
Viaero Wireless  
Viridis Chemical  
Visiting Physicians Clinic  
Vyve Broadband  
Window World of Northeast Nebraska  
Woerth Construction, Inc.  
ZeeKey'Z Pork in a Boat

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## July 2024

2	4:30 pm	Entrepreneur Task Force Committee	Innovation Center
2	5:00 pm	Entrepreneurship Networking Event	Innovation Center
3	10:00 pm	Red, White, Kaboom!	Columbus High School
4 & 5		Chamber Closed for Independence Day	
9	9:00 am	Housing Committee	Chamber/Zoom
9	10:00 am	Commodore Call: BeYOUtiful Wellness Studio/District Venue	2509 13th St
11	7:00 am	Businesspersons' Breakfast	Ag Park
11	10:00 am	Commodore Call: Connection Christian Church	4302 23rd St
12	3:00 pm	Commodore Call: Encompass Dental	4808 43rd St
15	5:00 pm	Business After Hours: Am. Foundation for Suicide Prevention	The Friedhof
16	10:30 am	Columbus Days Committee	Chamber
16	12:00 pm	Finance Committee	Chamber/Zoom
18	10:00 am	Commodore Call: Northwestern Mutual	3763 39th Ave, Ste 400
18	12:00 pm	Transportation Committee	Chamber
22	12:00 pm	Board of Directors Meeting	Chamber
25	8:30 am	Networking Breakfast	Chamber
25	10:00 am	Commodore Call: Blazer Athletic Equipment	5109 26th St
26	7:00 am	Agribusiness Committee	Stack 'n Steak
26	8:15 am	Taste of Columbus Committee Meeting	Chamber

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PAID  
COLUMBUS, NE  
PERMIT #500

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