ST. LOUIS SBM Small Business Monthly

The Source for Business Owners SEPTEMBER 2026

STL's Best Engineering Firms

Discover What Drives Your Customer's Customer

Meet STL's Most Innovative Companies

FULL SPEED AHEAD

Get Inspired By The Top Small Companies In St.Louis

SBM ST. LOUIS SMALL BUSINESS MONTHLY
FUTURE 100
100 COMPANIES SHAPING THE FUTURE OF OUR REGION
INNOVATION | GROWTH | LEADERSHIP | IMPACT

Tamara Keefe, CEO and Founder of Clementine's Ice Cream, one of the area's top small businesses, shares her advice for building a successful business



Build Leads...Increase Sales...
Exhibit Your Product
or Service at the BizExpo

Oct. 29 - St. Charles Convention Center
(Booths Still Available)
STLEXPO.COM

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FUTURE100 AWARDS

The Hardest Working People in Small Business

Get inspired by the Area's Top Small Companies



Angela Lieb,founder and CEO of Exit 11 Coffee, is one of SBM's Future100 Companies

Spry Digital
Sheila Burkett



Spry Digital has become a creative force in the world of digital solutions. Since 2010, the company has been dedicated to helping organizations thrive through customized websites, web applications, and branding strategies. Its team of specialists tackles challenges like outdated designs and ineffective strategies, delivering user-friendly tools and engaging online experiences. With a strong focus on enhancing brand perception, streamlining operations, and generating revenue, the company works closely with clients to create solutions that align with their business goals and user expectations.

SteadyRain
Thompson Knox

SteadyRain is now a 100% employee owned digital agency providing innovation and business solutions for organizations throughout the United States with over 50 employees.
In a short six year period, SteadyRain moved from private ownership to a majority employee-owned ESOP and then to a 100% employee-owned ESOP. SteadyRain completed its first acquisition of another firm in early 2026 expanding, even further, the number of employee owners within the agency.

Stock Legal
Sara Stock

Stock Legal is a St. Louis-based law firm focused on helping businesses navigate legal issues throughout every stage of their life cycle—from formation and early growth through expansion, acquisitions and ultimately an exit or sale. The firm's clients range from pre-revenue startups and emerging companies to established businesses with hundreds of millions of dollars in annual revenue.

Summersalt
Lori Coulter



Summersalt is a popular direct-to-consumer women's apparel and swimwear brand headquartered in St. Louis, Missouri. Founded in 2017, the company is known for data-backed sizing and eco-friendly swimwear made from recycled materials, operating primarily as an e-commerce business rather than a brick-and-mortar retail storefront in the local area.

ThrottleNet
George Rosenthal

ThrottleNet is a comprehensive I.T. service provider emphasizing Cybersecurity, embodying "Business I.T. Everything." The business has experienced double-digit growth over its 25-year history. Now, with 50 employees, the company is actively seeking opportunities to expand into new cities while simultaneously strengthening its headquarters in St. Louis.

Wiegemann Associates
Gerry Wiegmann



Wiegmann Associates is a 118-employee, St. Louis-based mechanical contractor specializing in HVAC design/build, value engineering, building automation and mechanical construction. Since 1995, Wiegmann has delivered innovative, energy-efficient and cost-effective HVAC solutions for projects throughout the country. The company has completed projects valued at up to $35 million in 43 states. By combining in-house engineering, estimating, construction and controls expertise, Wiegmann provides clients with a single source of responsibility from initial design through project completion.

HAWTHORNE ANIMAL HOSPITAL
DR. PAUL MYER



Industry: Veterinary Medicine
hawthorneanimals.com

What have been the keys to success for the business?
Our key to success has been working with the client to find out what they believe will create the best life for their pet and to develop the health care plan to make that happen.

What is your best advice for other business owners to find business success?
No one can do everything alone. All successful business owners have surrounded themselves with a team. That includes subject matter experts outside the business and an exceptional staff to do the daily tasks. How all the team members work together is what sets the great business apart from the others.

What's the smartest thing your company did in the past year?
The smartest thing we did last year was improve technology in our practice. We improved our efficiency with new software that utilizes AI to decrease the amount of time spent on office work and allow us to pay more attention to patients.

How do you differentiate your business from others in your industry?
Hawthorne Animal Hospital believes that animals need 24/7 care. Just like us, animals sometimes have health issues at night and on the weekends. We work very hard to be available to our clients when they need us the most. To achieve this, we have a team that believes in the mission to provide exceptional care.