



Connections

ST. JOSEPH
Chamber of Commerce

The President's Perspective

If Not Now, When?

Over the last several years I have used my column to tout the many good and positive things about St. Joseph, of which there are many. However, this month I want to talk about the challenges and the not so positive things facing our community. I do this reluctantly because I have grown to love St. Joseph and do not want to be perceived otherwise, but we must face the issues that, in my opinion, are holding us back. The following is a brief summary of what I believe our biggest challenges are today:

School District – Yes, the past has been difficult and things are getting better, but what is to be done about future funding? A recent Chamber survey of businesses indicated more than 60 percent wanted to see a School District tax levy considered. Public education is critical to the future of St. Joseph and as such, there should be discussion and public engagement on this vitally important issue. The community needs a plan.

Workforce Preparedness – The good news is that we are making progress thanks to the partnership between business, the School District and Missouri Western State University. But the problem is now, and we must commit to moving quicker. You have heard me talk about the lack of applicants to fill jobs, but think about the 200+ students coming out of high school who do not go on to further education and, without skills and further training, end up in low skill jobs at low pay. Want to do something about the poverty rate? Give kids the education and training to get a good-paying job. Those jobs are here in St. Joseph.

Community Appearance – Let's agree that St. Joseph as a whole could make a better impression. There are a number of reasons for

unkept properties, but until we admit we have a problem, nothing is going to happen. It will require focus, resources and yes, meaningful City regulation. But, it can be done as other cities have demonstrated.

Downtown – For the first time in many years, downtown has a chance to be the catalyst for a better St. Joseph. Years of hope and public investment have resulted in a flurry of new private investment. These opportunities do not come along often in the life of downtowns. We need to be all-in; public and private, taking advantage of this opportunity. We better not waver in keeping the momentum going or it will pass us by.

Leadership – Nothing happens without good community leadership, both public and private. We need to face our challenges collectively and be willing to make the tough decisions to move St. Joseph forward. The community is ready for good leadership and the progress it can bring. Those in leadership today need to deliver and if not, others need to step forward.

I write about this because I am both concerned and frustrated. This is a great place with great, well-meaning people, but our opportunities are passing us by. As a community we must develop a sense of urgency, focus on the critical challenges and create a desire for action. If not now, when?



R. Patt Lilly
President & CEO

NEW MEMBERS

The following businesses and individuals have been approved for membership in the St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce:

Batts Communications Services, Inc.

Rich Brown
10409 E. 63rd St., Kansas City, MO 64133
(816) 353-4884
richb@battskc.com
www.battskc.com

Cable Telecommunications Computer Services Telecommunications

Chris Fleck Creative Services

Chris Fleck
2225 Jones (06)
(816) 294-3062
chrisfleckku@gmail.com
Marketing

Home Instead Senior Care

Brent Hoffart
3715 Beck Road, Ste. 207B (06)
(816) 259-5252
brent.hoffart@homeinstead.com
www.homeinstead.com/807

Home Health Care Hospice Care

Family Center Farm & Home

Bill Dickison
1301 S. Riverside Road (07)
(816) 507-0183
familycenter@familycenter.us
www.fcfarmandhome.com

Retail

Schneitter Fireworks & Importing Co.

Stacy Blake
12801 County Road 352 (05)
(816) 232-3969
stacy@schneitterfireworks.com
www.schneitterfireworks.com

Retail

Patti's Links LLC

Steve Lawson
14957 State Route JJ, DeKalb, MO 64440
(816) 646-8145
tnstevele@gmail.com

Food Service

Noyce Orthodontics

Dr. Matthew Noyce
400 Jules St., Ste. 440 (01)
(816) 364-1911
info@stjoembraces.com
www.noyceorthodontics.com

Dentist

Magnolia and Co. Events

Deborah Whitebird-Griffith
(816) 876-1742
info@magnoliacoevents.com
www.magnoliacoevents.com

Event Production



Industry Opens Doors During First MFG Day

The St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce coordinated the city's first Manufacturing Day, which literally opened the doors of seven manufacturers to high school students to allow them to see manufacturing up close. Manufacturing is a highly-skilled and highly desirable career path, with jobs available in St. Joseph. Learn more at choosesaintjoseph.com/mfgday.



2015 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE YEAR
AWARD WINNER

MISSOURI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

UNITED STATES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

ACCREDITED



November Calendar

All members, employees and guests are invited to attend events. Call the Chamber for any dietary needs.

- 3** **Healthy Workforce Summit**
Presented by Mosaic Life Care Business Solutions
Alida Moonen, who leads Wellness Works at Summa Health in Akron, Ohio, will be the keynote speaker at this year's Healthy Workforce Summit. She works diligently to engage and empower employees to embrace wellness, first as individuals, and then as part of their role as health care professionals moving into the frontier of population health management. This year the Summit will feature a Healthy Resource Fair and launch the Healthy St. Joseph Program.
Thursday, Nov. 3
7:30 a.m., \$10
Breakfast provided
Enright Rooms, 214-216
Missouri Western State University
4525 Downs Drive
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:
816/232-4461
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- 8** **Lunch & Learn Seminar**
Lunch by Lino's Original Pizza
Presented by CliftonLarsonAllen
Topic: "Tax Update and Year-End Planning Strategies for Businesses and Individuals"
With the end of the financial year being two months away, there are a number of steps businesses and individuals can take to minimize their tax liability. This session will cover a wide range of possible strategies for attendees to consider. It will be presented by Emily Hilsabeck, Principal, and Nathan Howell, Sr. Associate, both of CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP.
Tuesday, Nov. 8
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., Free
St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce
3003 Frederick Ave.
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:
816/232-4461 or
www.saintjoseph.com
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- 9** **Shop St. Joseph**
Presented by the St. Joseph News-Press
This popular program encourages residents to shop locally during the holidays is getting ready to kick off. If you want your business to get some extra business this holiday shopping season, call 364-4107 or e-mail redmond@saintjoseph.com.
Nov. 9 to Dec. 19
go to www.saintjoseph.com
for more information
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- 10** **DIPLMATS CLUB Breakfast**
Presented by Mosaic Life Care
The Diplomats Club is a fun group that provides opportunities to promote your business and serve as a link between the Chamber and the community. Join them for their monthly meeting!
Thursday, Nov. 10
7:15 to 8:30 a.m., \$5
Breakfast provided
Mosaic Life Care, Exploratorium
5325 Faraon St.
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:
816/232-4461 or www.saintjoseph.com
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- 15** **Economic Summit Luncheon**
Presented by Innovation Stockyard
Esther George, President and CEO, of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, will be the keynote speaker and give a speech titled, "The Economy and the Federal Reserve." Complimentary attendance for two for Partnership for Success investors with an investment of \$500 or more a year.
Tuesday, Nov. 15
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., \$25
Radisson Hotel
102 S. Third St.
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:
816/232-4461 or www.saintjoseph.com
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- 15** **BUSINESS after HOURS**
Presented by Altec Industries, Inc.
Need to broaden your portfolio of potential clients and customers? Make some new real life connections at this networking event. Hosted by Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation.
Tuesday, Nov. 15
5 to 7 p.m., Free
Nodaway Valley Bank
1302 S. Riverside Road
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- 16** **Small Business Summit**
Presented by the Innovation Stockyard & the Family Investment Center, Inc.
See a Cup of Joe presentation and hear keynote speaker Casey Crail. Crail is the son of Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory's founder. He provides operational management to all of its retail locations, financial analysis, marketing, consulting, customer service training and store opening support. His address promises to be inspiring to those in any stage of their small business. Breakout sessions also will be featured on topics like, "You Work Hard for Your Money. Keep an Eye on It," "Social Media Tips and Tricks," "Keeping Up with the Department of Labor" and more.
Wednesday, Nov. 16
8 a.m. to 1 p.m., \$20
Lunch provided
Fulkerson Center, MWSU
4525 Downs Drive
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:
816/232-4461 or
www.saintjoseph.com
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- 17** **LEAD**

Presented by Altec Industries, Inc.
Leverage your knowledge and passion to build your career, expand your professional development, and make St. Joseph a better, stronger community with like-minded peers in LEAD, a group for those under 40. This month learn how to just say no when you're feeling overburdened and can't take on more responsibilities or activities.
Thursday, Nov. 17
7:45 to 9:15 a.m., FREE
United Way Conference Room
118 S. Fifth St.
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- 28** **Women's Leadership Group**
Presented by Sam's Club
Co-sponsored with Northwest Missouri State University's Small Business and Technology Development Center, each month has a different featured topic for women business owners, managers and employees.
Monday, Nov. 28
12 to 1 p.m., FREE
St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce
3003 Frederick Ave.
RSVPS REQUIRED: 816/232-4461 or
www.saintjoseph.com