



Connections

ST. JOSEPH
Chamber of Commerce

The President's Perspective

Why?

Several months ago I wrote about some of the major issues facing our community. One of those was the financial cliff facing the St. Joseph School District, in light of the loss of a previously approved operating levy. My thought was the School Board needed to establish a funding plan and work to engage and inform the community as a prelude to any future vote. To their credit, this is in fact what the Board and administration have begun doing, which we all should be supportive of and participate in.

The District has hired a firm to conduct a survey and facilitate public meetings to obtain feedback from residents. I attended one of these meetings and certainly came away with an understanding that the community will need to consider a proposal to address future funding. The Board, in the weeks ahead, will have to consider public input as well as their own opinions as to what is best for the District and work together to develop a plan to justify the need for additional funding.

There appears to be an interest on putting a proposal before voters in early April, which will require the School Board to make a decision in January. I would hope though that the School Board and administration takes the time to engage the community and allow time for discussion and debate on a proposed funding plan. I believe an issue of this importance deserves time and patience to develop a plan which clearly lays out the need for additional funding. Once presented, the community will need time to digest the plan and offer

feedback, leading to a final proposal for voters to consider.

I know there is a certain amount of anxiousness to get something done. There is a serious financial issue facing the School District and, if not addressed, it will erode the School District's ability to deliver a quality education to students. As a community we cannot allow this to happen. That said, I simply offer that more time allowed for developing a consensus funding plan and providing for public input and understanding will benefit a future vote.

We have good people on the School Board and the administration who are working hard to do the right thing. We need a funding plan that will bring the community together to support schools and the future education of our children. I trust that ultimately the School Board and administration will decide what the right plan is and when to ask voters to consider it. Whenever that is, the Chamber will support providing the funding necessary to ensure quality education in St. Joseph. That said, we all need to be aware that there will be a lot riding on this future vote.



R. Patt Lilly
President & CEO

NEW MEMBERS

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

Hunan Restaurant

Jason Chen
401 N. 36th St. (06)
(816) 232-2535

jason.hunanrestaurant@yahoo.com

Restaurants

Corey Whorton - Magician

680 College St.,
Union Star, MO 64494
(816) 351-1778

corey@coreywhorton.com

www.coreywhorton.com

Entertainment

Auntie Anne's

Stephanie Tripp
P.O. Box 8544 (08)
(816) 259-5251

stjosephpretzels@hotmail.com

www.auntieannes.com

Restaurants

Aerotek

Alexandra Hirt
7900 College Blvd., Ste. 200
Overland Park, KS 66210

(913) 333-5968

ahirt@aerotek.com

www.aerotek.com

Employment Services

Paycor

Patrick Euston
8050 Marshall Drive,
Lenexa, KS 66214
(913) 426-8148

peuston@paycor.com

www.paycor.com

Accounting Services

Elite Realty

Agent Jo
2320 N. Belt Highway (06)
(816) 259-5418

jo@agentjo.com

www.stjosephproperties.com

Real Estate

Kevin's Nails

Jenny Bui
5107 N. Belt Highway, Ste. 111 (06)
(816) 233-7544

beuyen@hotmail.com

www.kevinsnailsandspa.com

Beauty Salons and Services

Martia Enterprises, d/b/a/ boostrefund.com

Dan Marlow
1018 W. St. Maartens Drive (06)
(913) 498-9327

dan@martia.biz

www.boostrefund.com

Accounting Services

High Plains Bioenergy

Bill Patrick
5701 Stockyards Expressway (04)
(816) 238-7928

william_patrick@hpbioenergy.com

www.highplainsbioenergy.com

Manufacturers



Chamber Groups Celebrate the Holidays

LEAD, the Chamber's young professionals group pictured in part above, was one of many Chamber groups that celebrated the holidays with special events in addition to regular meetings this year. Thank you to all of our many volunteers and members for a busy and prosperous 2016 and we wish you continued success in 2017.



January Calendar

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

4, 12,
18
& 26

Circle of Influence

Circle of Influence is a leads group composed of small business professionals who are looking to increase their revenue by forming relationships with other Chamber members for the purpose of exchanging direct client referrals and leads. The group also provides a forum for the discussion of issues which businesses commonly encounter. Only one member per profession/speciality in each group. There is a \$100 joining fee. There are two groups, one that meets the first and third Wednesdays and another that meets the second and fourth Thursdays. Contact Natalie Redmond for more information, redmond@saintjoseph.com or (816) 364-4107.

Jan. 4 & 12 -- Jan. 18 & 26
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., **Guests Free**

Commerce Bank,
Ashland Avenue and Karnes Road

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DIPLOMATS 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! This month the Dips will help set up the Annual Banquet decorations at the Civic Arena.

Thursday, Jan. 5
7:15 to 8:30 a.m., **Free**

Breakfast provided
Civic Arena
100 N. Fourth St.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:
816/232-4461 or www.saintjoseph.com

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97TH ANNUAL BANQUET

Presented by Commerce Bank

Join us for the 97th Annual Banquet, which will have a "Come One, Come All" vintage circus theme. Dress is semi-formal, no costumes or period dress required. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., with dinner at 7 p.m. Entertainment will be provided by Moondrop Circus. Dinner will be catered by Luna's Fine Dining.

Saturday, Jan. 7
6:30 p.m., \$45 or \$55 after Jan. 3

Dinner provided
Civic Arena
100 N. Fourth St.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:
816/232-4461 or www.saintjoseph.com

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Lunch & Learn Seminar

Lunch by Fazoli's

Presented by CliftonLarsonAllen

Topic: "Three Emerging Trends that Will Help You Attract & Retain Top Talent in 2017"

Learn the terms and trends that will help you build and retain the workforce you desire for 2017 from Rebecca Lobina, of Northwest Missouri State University's Small Business & Technology Development Center.

Tuesday, Jan. 10
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., **\$10**
3003 Frederick Ave.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:
816/232-4461 or
www.saintjoseph.com

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BUSINESS after HOURS

Presented by Altec Industries, Inc.

Please join us for your monthly chance to make some new business connections. Bring your business cards and meet some new people!

Tuesday, Jan. 17
5 to 7 p.m., **Free**

Muny Inn
3229 Mitchell Ave.

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Women's Leadership Group

Presented by Sam's Club

Bring your own lunch to this monthly meeting of women in business. 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, Jan. 23
12 to 1 p.m., **FREE**

St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce
3003 Frederick Ave.
Bring your own lunch

the **SMALL BUSINESS** resource center

Experts, Resources, Inspiration
stjosephsmallbusiness.com

If you like the Chamber's Business Intelligence e-Report, you'll love our small business website. Have you visited The Small Business Resource Center, www.stjosephsmallbusiness.com, lately? New articles are being added all the time that can be helpful to your business including tips and strategies from local experts. For example:

Working with Others: The Value of Collaboration Projects
Getting the Most Out of Your Chamber Membership
Podcasting as a Tool for Small Business: Simpler & More Effective Than You Think
9 Security Tips to Protect Small Businesses from Hackers

The website, a Chamber project, provides a wealth of information about a variety of subjects that affect your small business. Most articles are offered from local experts and Chamber members. With the Small Business Resource Center, you have combined years of experience, proven strategies, and knowledge for success at your fingertips.

The site is presented by American Family Insurance. Please check it out today.