



Connections

ST. JOSEPH
Chamber of Commerce

The President's Perspective

Why?

We have understood for some time that many people who work in our community do not live here. This trend has seemed to increase over the past decade as the number of jobs in St. Joseph have grown. To better understand the extent of this trend we have done some research based on the 2015 Census data (most recent). Here are the numbers of those who work in St. Joseph but do not live in the City or Buchanan County:

- 2,584 live in the Kansas City metro area, or 5% of workforce.
- 1,786 live in rural NE Kansas, or 4% of the workforce.
- 9,067 live in NW Missouri, or 18% of the workforce.

So, if you are doing the math that comes to 13,437 people who work here but do not live here, or 27% of the workforce. It should be noted, these numbers do not include workers who live outside the City in Buchanan County. I would estimate when you consider this a third of the workforce actually lives outside the City.

Of course, we have people who live in St. Joseph and work in Kansas City, but frankly these folks live here along with their families and are engaged in the community. Those who commute to St. Joseph are important contributors to our workforce and their employers, but their property taxes don't support our community and assets like our schools, streets, etc. Their kids do not go to

our schools and the further away they live, the less they shop or attend events here. That is the issue.

The question we need to ask ourselves is why. Why do people who work for many of our local employers choose not to live in St. Joseph? I have heard and understand the many reasons: lack of available housing, not enough to do, the schools, neighborhoods in decline, crime...and I am sure you have heard other reasons as well. While I might dispute some of these, others are in fact an issue for our community.



R. Patt Lilly
President & CEO

The work that was done to develop the community plan, Imagine St. Joseph 2040, really underscored the issue. St. Joseph must become a better place if we are to attract and retain people. Initiatives have been identified and are underway to make St. Joseph better, but it will take the community, all of us, to make St. Joseph a place people want to be part of and call home.

So why? Perhaps collectively, as a community, we should all look in the mirror. I think we now know why. Now let us commit to making St. Joseph a better place. If not for us, for our kids and grandkids!

NEW MEMBERS

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

Dave's Wildlife Nuisance Control & Deterrents LLC
David Jerde
6218 Carnegie St. (04)
(660) 215-0033
daveswildlifenuisancecontrol@gmail.com
Pest Control

Planet Sub
James Knight
5301 N. Belt Highway Ste. 115 (06)
(816) 273-0611
james.knight@planetsub.com
www.planetsub.com
Restaurants

Be Still, Be True Coaching & Consulting
Kaylee Gibson
620 Francis St., Ste. 212 (01)
(816) 866-0036
bestillbetruebutterfly@gmail.com
www.bestillbetruebutterfly.com
Consultants

American Business & Technology University
Ramsey Atieh
1018 W. Saint Maartens Drive (06)
(816) 279-7000
ramsey@abtu.edu
www.abtu.edu
Education

Platinum Realty
Tyler Binder
P.O. Box 8001 (08)
(816) 244-9614
tylerbinderrealty@gmail.com
www.movewithplatinum.com
Real Estate

3 Wishes Bakery
Jeff & Jackie Allison
3702 Frederick Ave. Ste. F7 (06)
(816) 752-2126
jackieallison2016@gmail.com
Bakeries

The Axe Factor
Bruce Baker
1302 Frederick Ave. (01)
(816) 396-8503
theaxefactorstj@gmail.com
www.theaxefactorstj.com
Entertainment

Bubba's BBQ
Kane Brooner
3316 N. 35th Place (06)
(816) 390-3094
bubbasbbq35@gmail.com
Restaurants

Veritas Systems Construction
Guy Thevenot
1111 Alabama Ave. (04)
(816) 238-7701
construction@teamperka.com
www.veritasbuilder.com
Construction Management



Need help recruiting or retaining talent?

Uncommon Life is here to make recruiting employees to work and live in St. Joseph easier. The St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce has incorporated the Made with Uncommon Character brand to highlight why St. Joseph is a unique place... and why your recruits should call it home. This includes tools for you as a recruiter or human resources specialist to use when hiring and getting new hires acclimated to the community.

Tours -- Gift Baskets -- Welcome Rallies -- Icebreakers -- Website

To see tools: uncommonlife.saintjoseph.com/hr

Share the website for potential residents: uncommonlife.saintjoseph.com

January Calendar

All members, employees and guests are invited to attend events. Call the Chamber for any dietary needs. Mark your calendars now, and confirm your reservation one week prior to the event. Reservations must be cancelled 24 hours in advance to avoid charges. For more information, call 816/232-4461. **CREDIT CARD RESERVATIONS CAN BE MADE ONLINE, www.saintjoseph.com**

- 9, 23/15** **Circle of Influence** **Jan. 9 & 23 and Jan. 15**
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Guests Free
Circle of Influence is a leads group composed of small business professionals looking to exchange 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 is allowed. Cost is \$100 to join. There are two groups, one that meets the first and third Wednesdays at Stoney Creek Hotel and another that meets the second and fourth Thursdays at Commerce Bank at Ashland and Karnes roads. Contact Natalie Redmond for more information, redmond@saintjoseph.com or (816) 364-4107.
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- 10** **FOODIE FRIDAY** **Friday, Jan. 10**
7:30 to 9 a.m., Free
Join other Chamber members as they experience foods all around St. Joseph in a monthly networking event.
Caribou Coffee
205 N. Belt Highway
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- 14** **Lunch & Learn Seminar** **Tuesday, Jan. 14**
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., \$10
Presented by CLA *Lunch by Rib Crib*
St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce
3003 Frederick Ave.
“Getting the Year Started Right...Free From Lawsuits”
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:
816/232-4461
or www.saintjoseph.com
Come learn from Tim Davis, partner with Constangy, Brooks Smith & Prophete, LLP about this important topic in any industry. This session is held in conjunction with the Human Resource Management Association of Northwest Missouri.
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- 16** **DIPLOMATS CLUB Breakfast** **Thursday, Jan. 16**
7:15 to 8:30 a.m., Free
Presented by Mosaic Life Care
Breakfast provided
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.
Civic Arena
100 N. Fourth St.
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:
816/232-4461 or www.saintjoseph.com
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- 18** **100th Annual Banquet** **Saturday, Jan. 18**
6 p.m., \$50 or \$60 after Jan. 13
Presented by Commerce Bank
Dinner provided
Join us for the 100th Annual Banquet, as we lead you through “Chamber Through the Decades.” Doors open at 6 p.m., with dinner at 7 p.m. Dinner will be catered by Luna’s Fine Dining.
Civic Arena
100 N. Fourth St.
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:
816/232-4461 or www.saintjoseph.com
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- 23** **BUSINESS after HOURS** **Thursday, Jan. 23**
5 to 7 p.m., Free
Presented by Altec Industries, Inc.
Norty’s Bar & Grill
1117 Frederick Ave.
There’s no shortage of chances to meet new people through the Chamber! Bring your business cards, talk to some potential new customers and make some new friends.
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- 27** **Women’s Leadership Group** **Monday, Jan. 27**
Noon to 1 p.m., Free
Presented by Sam’s Club
Bring your own lunch
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. This month Seth and Shawna from The Studio by Seth Bradley will present, “New Year, New Look: Looking Professional in 2020.”
Studio by Seth Bradley
103 S. Fourth St.
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:
816/232-4461 or www.saintjoseph.com



Food Specials -- Exclusive Menus -- Fan Favorites

Foodies are invited to savor and save on new dining options or tried and true favorites

Jan. 17-26, 2020

www.stjrestaurantweek.com

Follow the Chamber on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn