

March 2020

Connecting the Chamber with members in a monthly news source.



Connections

ST. JOSEPH
Chamber of Commerce

The President's Perspective

A Decade of Growth

Typically, as we come to the conclusion of a year, we take time to review progress and take stock in our accomplishments. At the Chamber we are often focused from year to year and provide to our members our annual report on the progress we have made. As we were preparing our report someone on the staff commented on the passing decade, the 2010s. So, it made me pause and question from an economic development standpoint, what have we accomplished as a community over the past decade?

The 2010s brought growth and business success -- over \$1 billion in new investment in buildings and equipment by St. Joseph businesses. With this investment came over 2,000 new jobs. Many of our existing companies saw new jobs, but also new companies to the community, like Schutz Containers, Daily's Premium Meats and Kindred Bio that brought job growth with their new facilities.

With job growth and a tight local labor market came wage growth over the 10-year period. We saw St. Joseph's wages grow by 30 percent outpacing the national average (23 percent) and the Missouri average (24 percent). And we ended the decade ranked number 3 in the State for average hourly wages behind Kansas City and St. Louis.

And with growth and prosperity has come new opportunities. Our local businesses continue to grow, expand and thrive in spite of challenges with the local workforce. We are seeing new businesses pop-up all over town like Yellow Frog Graphics in the east, BHJ USA in the south and River Bluff Brewing and Felix Street Gourmet in an emerging downtown that has brought energy and new life to St. Joseph.



R. Patt Lilly
President & CEO

Transport 360 is bringing activity to the Missouri River. Work is beginning on renovating the American Electric Building into new loft apartments and we're all anxious to see the redevelopment of the former Wire Rope property by Hill-yard Companies.

Yes, this past decade will be remembered for the growth that occurred setting the stage for new opportunities and a brighter future. When you stop and think about the past 10 years it really is apparent that St. Joseph has come a long way. Of course, there is still much more to be accomplished, but it sure makes me excited about the community's potential in the decade of the 2020s.

NEW MEMBERS

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

MTI Security
Anthony Wickam
601 Lincoln St. (01)
(816) 279-5955
info@mtisecurity.com
www.mtisecurity.com
Security

Spectrum Reach
Nate Nold
518 Felix St. (01)
(816) 261-1062
nathan.nold@charter.com
Advertising

America's Car-Mart
Aaron Smith
2504 S. Belt Highway (03)
(816) 205-7077
aaron.smith@car-mart.com
www.car-mart.com
Automobile Dealers

Gary Exline
4611 Heatherwood Court (06)
(816) 383-1550
garyexline70@gmail.com
Civic Member

CBD American Shaman
Brenda Lesan
139 N. Belt Highway, Ste. S (06)
(816) 390-8707
blesancbd@gmail.com
Retail

Dean VanSchoiack
11248 Highway 71,
Savannah, MO 64485
(816) 261-1361
dean.vans81@gmail.com
Civic Member

Thompson & Associates LLC
Ronilu Thompson
2402 N. Woodbine Road Ste. B (06)
(816) 364-4714
ronilu@thompson-cpas.com
www.thompson-cpas.com
Accountants -- Certified Public

Anytime Fitness
Brandon Wilson
1209 N. Belt Highway, Ste. F (06)
(816) 232-1315
stjosephmo@anytimefitness.com
www.anytimefitness.com
Fitness

We Can We Will
Michelle Carpentieri
1401 Pleasant Hill Drive,
Platte City, MO 64079
(816) 294-7618
wecanwewill2018@gmail.com
Human Services Organization

**United States Army
Recruiting Station**
Steven White
1401 N. Belt Highway (05)
(816) 279-2524
steven.r.white72.mil@mail.mil
www.goarmy.com
Government

Lino's Pizza
Gabriel Palmer
3702 Frederick Ave. Ste. F5 (06)
(816) 273-5162
gabrielmarketing@gmail.com
Restaurant

St. Joseph Youth Hockey Association
Amy Mueller
2500 S.W. Parkway (03)
(816) 271-5506
sjyha.griffonshockey@gmail.com
Sports



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



www.saintjoseph.com
(816) 232-4461
chamber@saintjoseph.com

March 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**

Speed Networking

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Presented by St. Jo Frontier Casino

Need to network, but don't like to approach strangers in a mixer-like environment? Come to the Chamber's Speed Networking event for your chance to make many meaningful business connections in a very short amount of time.

Tuesday, March 3
8 to 9:30 a.m., \$15, continental breakfast provided

St. Jo Frontier Casino
777 Winners Circle

4 & 18/ Circle of Influence

12 & 26

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.

March 4 & 18 and March 12 & 26
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Guests Free

Lunch & Learn Seminar

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Presented by CLA

"Will I Ever See Social Media Success"

Why what you've always done on social media is currently getting you no results -- A deep dive into what's changed (and what you can do to ride the wave). Come learn more at this presentation by John Norton of Missouri Business Podcast.

*Lunch by Marek's
Catering & Delicatessen*

Tuesday, March 10
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., \$10
St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce
3003 Frederick Ave.

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

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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!

Thursday, March 12
7:15 to 8:30 a.m., \$7

Breakfast provided
Castle Bridge Event Center
8403 U.S. Highway 59

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

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UNCOMMON LIFE GET TO KNOW ST. JOSEPH EVENT

Presented by Altec Industries, Inc. and Mosaic Life Care

Have employees new to St. Joseph? Invite them to this event where they can meet new people and learn valuable information about their new city. Food & drinks provided, as well as a little luck of the Irish at this St. Patrick's Day themed event.

Thursday, March 12
5 to 7 p.m., Free

Room 108
722 Felix St.

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

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FARM CITY BREAKFAST

Presented by LifeLine Foods

This popular event is held in celebration of National Ag Day. It recognizes the farmer/producer and the importance of agribusiness to the area economy. Proceeds benefit Agriculture Future of America (AFA) scholarships.

Friday, March 20
7 to 8:30 a.m., \$12

Word of Life Church
3902 N. Riverside Road
Tickets available at the Chamber or online

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Women's Leadership Group

Presented by Garden Gate Floral & Gifts

Co-sponsored with Northwest Missouri State University's Small Business Development Center, each month has a different featured topic for women business owners, managers and employees. This month Drew Fisher, MA, LPC, with Fisher Counseling Services will be the guest speaker. He'll discuss stress management.

Monday, March 23
Noon to 1 p.m., Free

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

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

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Washington, D.C. Fly-In

Presented by Missouri Western State University

A delegation of local business and community leaders annually visit the nation's capitol as part of the Chamber's Fly-In. While in D.C., the delegation meets with members of Congress, U.S. Senators, legislative staff and U.S. Chamber officials. Contact Tama Wagner for more information at (816) 364-4109.

Tuesday & Wednesday,
March 24 & 25
Washington, D.C.

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BUSINESS after HOURS

Presented by Altec Industries, Inc.

There's never a shortage of ways to grow your professional network with the Chamber. Come to Business After Hours to meet some new people and help grow your business. This month is hosted by The Magnet Guys.

Thursday, March 26
5 to 7 p.m., Free

River Bluff Brewery
1224 Frederick Ave.