



Connections

ST. JOSEPH
Chamber of Commerce

The President's Perspective

Be Better

As you may have heard, St. Joseph saw a drop in population according to the results of the 2020 Census. I could challenge the results in light of the pandemic, but the fact is the number is the number. St. Joseph lost approximately 4,000 residents over the past 10 years. This is a new trend for us as we added population in the past two Census counts. So why did we see the decline?

People who work in St. Joseph have options. Given our proximity to the Kansas City area, as well as rural areas in Northwest Missouri and Northeast Kansas, people can choose to work in St. Joseph but live outside the community. Based on data we have seen in the past, we estimate almost one-third of those who work in St. Joseph live outside the city; many in the North Kansas City area and in Andrew County. By the way, Andrew County was the only county to gain population in Northwest Missouri. A coincidence?

The truth is many people have made the decision that while they may enjoy working in St. Joseph they do not want to live here. Why is that? Of course, there are many reasons, some personal related to where the family wants to live and other reasons that are more subjective relative to the quality of life in the community, availability of amenities and issues around crime and public education.

St. Joseph must be better. As a community, we now compete for residents just like local businesses compete for customers and employees. To attract and retain residents, we must be the type

of community that people want to call home. The jobs are here, but people are simply choosing to live somewhere else.

Attracting and retaining people was one of the many reasons we pursued the community plan, Imagine St. Joseph 2040. The initiative is important to the future of the community, but also to the success of local businesses. Employers must have the talent necessary to accomplish the work. The plan itself has three focus areas, invest in people, create a better place and grow prosperity. Some of the goals involve improving the quality of education, improving opportunities for job skills, redeveloping older neighborhoods, improving community amenities like our parks, addressing crime, meaningful improvement in poverty levels and recruiting jobs today that will be the future of our local economy. These are big goals that must be achieved if we are to be successful as a community. The good news is work has begun and we are seeing success, but there is still much to be done.

It's time collectively, as a community, to look in the mirror. What do we see? If we want to grow and thrive as a community, St. Joseph must be better. We must all be.



R. Patt Lilly
President & CEO

NEW MEMBERS

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

St. Joseph Scottish Rite
Wesley Revels
515 N. Sixth St. (01)
(816) 390-7622
valleyofstjoe@gmail.com
www.scottishrite-stjo.org
Charitable Organizations

Sunny Day Dispensary
Lyndon Wade
4225 Commonwealth Ct. Ste. D (03)
(816) 558-6003
info@sunnydaydispensary.com
www.sunnydaydispensary.com
Retail

Sparkle Peach Inc.
Ann Irvin
3831 Frederick Ave. (06)
(816) 261-7356
sparklepeachinc@gmail.com
www.sparklepeach.com
Charitable Organizations

AFLAC
Angie Cluck
1802 Union St. Ste 203 (01)
(785) 741-0869
adcluck2002@yahoo.com
www.aflac.com
Insurance (Associate)

Gunter Pest Management
Colin Dorsey
2400 Frederick Ave. Ste. 111A (06)
(816) 233-8822
colin@gunterpest.com
www.gunterpest.com
Pest Control

RitePack, Inc.
Cory Shue
3601 S. Leonard Road (03)
(816) 364-3995
cshue@bmslogisticsinc.com
www.ritepack-inc.com
Contract Packaging Services

Pizza Tascio LLC
Erik Borger
2201 Frederick Ave. (06)
(816) 558-6698
illazzarone1@gmail.com
www.pizzatascio.com
Restaurants

Pickett Place
Sheri Sullender
3601 Cedar St. PO Box 10447 (03)
(816) 232-3515
pickettplace@hrmservices.org
www.hrmservices.org/pickett-place
Apartments

Frederick Boulevard Baptist Church
Chris Geyer
5502 Frederick Blvd. (07)
(816) 233-2824
chrisg@frederickboulevard.com
www.frederickboulevard.com
Churches

Cedar Creek Botanical Company
Jadeth McCloud
(913) 951-6131
cedarcreekbotanicals@gmail.com
www.cedarcreekbotanicals.com
Florists

Kansas City Real Estate, Inc.
Fawn Brents
701 Edmond St. (01)
(816) 246-7700
fawnbrents@gmail.com
www.kansascityrealestate.com
Real Estate

Wingstop
Bobby Hughes
2115 N. Belt Hwy Ste. C (06)
(816) 722-7200
wsstjoseph@viberestaurants.com
www.wingstop.com
Restaurants



ALL YOU CAN PLAY FOR \$14.95

BOWLING -- LASER TAG -- NON-REDEMPTION ARCADE
9 a.m. to midnight, Monday through Thursday

Safe, sanitized and ready to roll!

210 N. Belt Highway 816-233-1054 belt-entertainment.com

*some exclusions apply, specials can change at any time

October Calendar

For more information, call 816/232-4461. **CREDIT CARD RESERVATIONS CAN BE MADE ONLINE**, www.saintjoseph.com

All members, employees and guests are invited to attend events. Call the Chamber for any dietary needs. Reservations must be cancelled 24 hours in advance to avoid charges. See COVID-19 event guidelines at saintjoseph.com

6, 20/ Circle of Influence

Oct. 6 & 20 and Oct. 14 & 28
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Guests Free

14, 28 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/specialty in each group is allowed. Cost is \$100 to join. 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. Meetings held at Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center, 1201 Woodbine.

12 Lunch & Learn Seminar

Lunch by Subway

Tuesday, Oct. 12
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., \$10
St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce
3003 Frederick Ave.

Presented by Butchart Flowers Inc. & Greenhouse

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

“Leveraging Your Location to Help Your Bottom Line”

We have a bad habit of assuming location is mere fact, not an asset to be leveraged, when in reality it can be a very powerful part of our marketing strategy. Come learn about how knowledge of where you are located and who the people are around your business can help your bottom line. This program will be given by Dawn M. Drake, PhD, and associate professor of Geography at Missouri Western State University.

14 DIPLOMATS CLUB Breakfast

Presented by CLA

Thursday, Oct. 14
7:15 to 8:30 a.m., \$7

Breakfast provided
Belt Entertainment
210 N. Belt Highway

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!

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

21 BUSINESS after HOURS

Presented by Altec Industries, Inc.

Thursday, Oct. 21
5 to 7 p.m., Free

Bring your business cards and meet your next client at this monthly event. Food and drinks provided.

Crockett Family Farm Produce LLC
7500 SW State Route KK

26 Women's Leadership Group

Presented by Human Resource Management Association of Northwest Missouri

Tuesday, Oct. 26
5 to 8 p.m., \$30

For National Women's Small Business Month, the leadership group will host a She Means Business Shop Crawl. Register and get a T-shirt, shopping bag and more goodies, then grab your friends to go shop at women-owned businesses. Each store will offer specials and refreshments and each store you visit gets you a chance to win a grand prize. Limited to 50 attendees.

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

30 Donut Dash 5k+

Presented by Gold N' Glaze Donuts

Saturday, Oct. 30
8 a.m., \$25, includes T-shirt

Join us for a family-friendly 5k+ run/walk through historic St. Joseph, featuring Mount Mora Cemetery and Robidoux Row and Patee House museums. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the cemetery and museums. Strollers and pets welcome. Stay after the run for brunch at the Hi-Ho! Children 12 and younger are \$10. More info and register at saintjoseph.com.

Patee House Museum
1202 Penn St..
Fee is \$35 after 10/22

Watch your e-mail for these event announcements

Sometimes the print deadline for the newsletter just comes too fast! Watch your e-mail and social media for details on these October events:

POINTERS & PINTS

This is a fun and educational series for small businesses.



GET TO KNOW ST. JOSEPH EVENT

This is a welcome event for new employees/residents to St. Joseph.



CATCH THE GAME

AT FIRESIDE SPORTS BAR & GRILL!

With 34 TVs & Game Day Specials

\$5 Rib Special!

KC Strip Steak \$17.99

All-American Cheeseburger \$4.99

HOURS: Tues.-Sat. 4PM-10PM | Sunday Opens at Noon



Must be 21.
Gambling Problem? Call 1-888-BETSOFF.