

December 2021

Connecting the Chamber with members in a monthly news source.



Connections

ST. JOSEPH
Chamber of Commerce

The President's Perspective

What A Ride!

Well, this will be my last newsletter column as President/CEO as I will be retiring from the position at the end of the year. Frankly, I have struggled with this the column because there are any number of things I could talk about. Fortunately, space in the newsletter is limited.

I am extremely fortunate to have had a career that provided an opportunity to make a difference in the life of a community. As I look back, I am not sure this was my goal when I was pursuing a Political Science degree, but as I began my career in local government, I saw the opportunity of such work. I am also my mother's son. My mother was a community advocate or rabble rouser as some called her, so I guess my passion for community work came naturally.

As I tell people about being a Chamber staffer, there is something special about working with people who have a shared passion to make their community better. They get it. But it is not just the Chamber, it's the City, the County, the School District, the University, the United Way.... it is about many people paid, elected or volunteer, who work diligently to make St. Joseph better for all of us. They get it.

For me, I will move on to a new role as community volunteer in hopes I can sustain my passion of making a difference. I would invite all to join the "make a difference movement". You too can feel the passion and the reward of making St. Joseph a better place.

Yes, it has indeed been a great ride! I feel humble, thankful and appreciative for the opportunities I have had. See you in the volunteer line.

One last comment, I am so pleased that Natalie Redmond will be our new President/CEO. She is and will be outstanding. You can feel her energy and passion for the Chamber and the community. Her leadership will take us to new heights of this, I am sure.

Go get'em Natalie!



R. Patt Lilly
President & CEO

NEW MEMBERS

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

Commercial Capital Company LLC

Jesus Morales
13910 W. 96th Terrace
Lenexa, KS 66215
(913) 341-0053
jesusmorales@ccckc.com
ccckc.com

Financial Services

Hazel's Coffee Bar

Heather Mitchell
310 N. Third St. (01)
(816) 390-5584
hazelscoffeebar@gmail.com
www.hazelscoffee.com

Coffee Shops

Happy Go Lucky Photography

Rylan McClurg
1214 Frederick Ave. (05)
(816) 390-5242
rylanhglphoto@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/rylanhglphoto

Photographers

Kewl Kidzs 4 Christ

Darin Smith
402 S. Eighth St. (01)
(816) 722-1238
kewlkidzs4christ@gmail.com

Human Service Organizations

St. Joe Cookie Company

Janaha Anderson
4073 SE Cunningham Road (07)
(816) 558-2842
www.stjoecookie.com

Bakeries

Butchart Flowers, LLC

Michelle Leimbach
5005 Frederick Ave. (06)
(North Location, inside Meierhoffer
Funeral Home and Crematory)
(816) 279-2740

roses@butchartflowers.com
www.butchartflowers.com

Florists

ClearSky Rehabilitation Hospital of Elwood-St. Joseph

Jessie Smedley
5600 Wyoming Blvd NE Ste 225,
Albuquerque, NM 87109
(512) 995-7597
jessiesmedley@clearskyhealth.com
www.clearskyhealth.com

Health Services

Scott Rice St. Joseph

Cathie Wayman
4221 Mitchell Ave. Ste. 2C (07)
(913) 888-7600
cathiew@scottrice.com
www.scottrice.com

Furniture

RPS Benefits by Design

Lori Worthington
4221 Mitchell Ave. Ste 2D (07)
(816) 233-9091
lori.worthington@rpsbbdi.com
www.rpsbenefitsbydesigninc.com

Employee Benefits (Associate)



THIS HOLIDAY & EVERY DAY

SHOP LOCAL DECIDE LOCAL

Be a Champion of Commerce

December 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

1 **Chairman's Breakfast** **Wednesday, Dec. 1**
7:30 a.m., \$25
Presented by John Joe Insurance
St. Joseph Country Club
50 Ridgeland Road
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:
816/232-4461 or
www.saintjoseph.com

Join Chairman of the Board Bill Severn as Ron Eidshaug, Vice President of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Government Affairs Division, gives his "View from the Hill." Eidshaug is the Chamber's chief lobbyist on energy, environmental, and regulatory reform issues. He joined the Chamber team in 1999 and has served in a variety of roles. \$35 for general public.

1, 9, 15, 16 **Circle of Influence** **Dec. 1 & 15 and Dec. 9 & 16**
11:30 a.m. to 1p.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 and another that meets the second and fourth Thursdays. (Holidays affect this schedule.) Contact Natalie Redmond for more information, redmond@saintjoseph.com or (816) 364-4107. Meetings held at Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center, 1201 Woodbine.

2 **Speed Networking** **Thursday, Dec. 2**
8 to 9:30 a.m., \$10
Presented by Tolly & Associates, Inc.
St. Jo Frontier Casino,
777 Winners Circle
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:
816/232-4461
or www.saintjoseph.com

Need to network, but don't like to approach strangers in a mixer-like environment? Speed Networking is for you! Make many meaningful business connections in a very short amount of time, 90 seconds per exchange. Bring about 75 business cards. A light breakfast will be served.

6 & 13 **POINTERS & PINTS** **Dec. 6 and 13**
Free

Presented by TS Conard Inc. Technology Solutions

In partnership with the Small Business Development Center, the Chamber is hosting a Pointers & Pints series to help grow your small business. Two sessions remain in December: Appy Hour at 4 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 6, at River Bluff Brewing, 1224 Frederick Ave. This will be a fun-filled yet informative session filled with a delightful mix of apps to boost your productivity both personally and professionally. It will be presented by Crystall Narr, Executive Director of the Chillicothe Area Chamber of Commerce.

On Monday, Dec. 13, at 4 p.m., at the Angry Swede, 513 Francis St., "A Lawyer, Banker and CPA Enter a Bar..." Get advice from Nancy Potter Lyle of Murphy Taylor Siemens & Elliott P.C.; Danny Lobina of Bank Midwest; and Shelly Hulet of Sumner, Carter, Hardy & Schwichtenberg, P.C.

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

7 **BUSINESS after HOURS HOLIDAY PARTY** **Tuesday, Dec. 7**
5 to 7 p.m., **Free**

Presented by Altec Industries, Inc.

It's the biggest Business After Hours of the year! Come to the annual Chamber member Holiday Party and as a thank you for being a member, enjoy food and drink samples from our Chamber Tastes caterers and providers. Come see old friends and meet some new ones!

Stoney Creek Hotel
& Conference Center
1201 Woodbine Road

9 **DIPLOMATS CLUB Breakfast** **Thursday, Dec. 9**
7:15 to 8:30 a.m., \$7
Presented by CLA
Breakfast provided
Albrecht-Kemper Museum of Art
2818 Frederick Ave.
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:
816/232-4461 or www.saintjoseph.com

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!

14 **Lunch & Learn Seminar** **Tuesday, Dec. 14**
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., \$10
Presented by Butchart Flowers Inc. & Greenhouse
Lunch by *Chawn's Catering, Inc.*
St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce
3003 Frederick Ave.
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:
816/232-4461
or www.saintjoseph.com

"What Does a Successful Open Enrollment Look Like?"
Come learn from the Marsh McLennan Agency about how to handle this insurance enrollment period to the best of your abilities.

22 **Shop St. Joseph** **Nov. 10 to Dec. 22**

Presented by News-Press NOW
go to www.saintjoseph.com
for more information

This popular program encourages residents to shop locally during the holidays. Shoppers collect tickets through Dec. 20 and a \$10,000 grand prize winning ticket number is released on Dec. 22. Lots of fabulous second chance prizes are available as well. See our website for more information.