

April 2022

Connecting the Chamber with members in a monthly news source.



Connections

ST. JOSEPH
Chamber of Commerce

The President's Perspective

A high-quality workforce continues to be the number one issue I hear about as I visit with businesses in St. Joseph. Soft skills are key to a successful career and attendance is at the top of the list. As a business community, it is critical we support the St. Joseph School District in its "Let's Make a Comeback – Your Attendance Matters" campaign to tackle chronic absenteeism, which is defined as missing 10 percent or more of the school year for any reason, excused or unexcused.

In 2017, the district took a critical look at attendance, implementing a campaign called Strive for Five. The goal was to limit or reduce absences to five days a year. By 2019, the district was at 90 percent attendance and had made its goal. Then COVID hit. In December of 2021, the district was at 75 percent attendance and now its even lower at 72 percent. That means on average, our SJSJ students are on pace to miss almost 54 days of the 2022 school year. This is a concerning trend.

We also know that our current second graders are 14 percent less proficient in mathematics compared to their proficiency when they were kindergarteners. Currently, about 30 percent of our third grade students are performing below basic levels in English, math, and science.

It is clear we need students in school. Chronic absenteeism in school often trickles into the workplace. If you have an interest in learning more about this campaign and how you can help promote the importance of getting kids in school with your employees please reach out to Kristie Arthur, Director of Workforce Development, at the St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce at arthur@saintjoseph.com.

Another way to get engaged is to attend the next Vision Forward Meeting on Tuesday, April 26, at 6 p.m. at Lafayette High School. This is the third public session and it will focus on improving academic outcomes.



Natalie Redmond
President & CEO

NEW MEMBERS

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

KEMPER HEALTH

Jerry Daniel
2921 N. Belt Highway Ste. U-17 (06)
(816) 364-1802
jdaniel@kemper.com
www.reservenational.com
Insurance

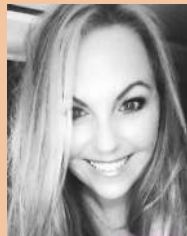
Preferred Handyman

Seth McCaslin
14375 U.S. Highway 71
Savannah, MO 64485
(816) 279-2000
seth@preferredhandymanllc.com
www.preferredhandymanllc.com
Home Improvements

Seventh Street Cafe

Gina Nielsen
114 N. Seventh St. (01)
(816) 901-9202
goldnglaze@yahoo.com
www.seventhstreetstj.com
Restaurants

**Agent Jo
Hire MORE
Than A Sign!**



18+ years of experience

Earned 7 additional educational designations/certifications such as ABR, CRS, GRI, SFR, SRS, MRE and ePro!

Transaction plus education working for you!

Don't just hire someone who passed a test and got a piece of paper.

Hire EXPERIENCE! Hire MORE than a sign.



**NEW 2nd office
in Smithville**

*Call or text 816-617-4412
and visit AgentJo.com to search
ALL listings from ALL companies.*

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 -- Welcomes -- Website

**On the web: uncommonlife.info
E-mail arthur@saintjoseph.com**



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

April 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

5 **SPECIAL BUSINESS after HOURS** **Tuesday, April 5**
Presented by Altec Industries, Inc. **5 to 7 p.m., Free**
Bring your business cards and come meet your next potential client at this extra Business After Hours this month. Come downtown and get a slice and a drink with us!
Geneo's Pizza & Pub
809 Francis St.

6, 20, 14, 28 **Circle of Influence** **April 6 & 20 and April 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. (Holidays affect this schedule.) Contact Tony Luke for more information, luke@saintjoseph.com or (816) 364-4101. Meetings held at Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center, 1201 Woodbine.
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Guests Free

7 **Small Business Owner Roundtable** **Thursday, April 7**
The Membership Council will host a new roundtable discussion series for small business owners only on the first Thursday of each month. In person or via Zoom, meet with Board Member and Membership Chair Amy Ryan of Commerce Bank and Membership Council Member Annette Weeks, of the Center for Entrepreneurship, and other small business owners. This month the topic will be employee retention.
9 a.m., Free
St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce
3003 Frederick Ave. or
register for Zoom link

12 **Lunch & Learn Seminar** *Lunch by Pizza Ranch* **Tuesday, April 12**
Presented by Butchart Flowers Inc. & Greenhouse **11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., \$10**
"Breathe! You Got This!"
St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce
3003 Frederick Ave.
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:
816/232-4461
or www.saintjoseph.com
At this seminar learn how to recognize the signs of burnout, how to protect yourself and your employees from burnout and about tools and practices that can enhance your workplace environment. This will be presented by Demetrius Chance, founder and executive director of Can You See Me?

14 **DIPLOMATS CLUB Breakfast** **Thursday, April 14**
Presented by Altec Industries, Inc., John Joe Insurance & On the Top Search **7:15 to 8:30 a.m., \$7**
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!
Breakfast provided
Preferred Pest Control
14375 Highway 71, Savannah, MO
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:
816/232-4461 or www.saintjoseph.com

25 **Women's Leadership Group** **Monday, April 25**
Presented by Human Resource Management Association of Northwest Missouri **Noon to 1 p.m., Free**
"Skills Leadership Trainings Should Teach Managers"
Bring your own lunch
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:
816/232-4461 or www.saintjoseph.com
Each month the Chamber and Northwest Missouri State University's Small Business Development Center bring business topics to light that are important to women. Dot Clemons, owner and founder of Dot Rock Consulting will present virtually to the group. She works with small business owners to show them how to live in their "Zone of Genius." She does this by realigning owners with their passion and teaching them how to delegate. Be ready to grow your business through successful delegation.

28 **BUSINESS after HOURS** **Thursday, April 28**
Presented by Altec Industries, Inc. **5 to 7 p.m., Free**
Get lucky at the casino at this Business After Hours! Bring your business cards and come meet your next potential client. It's free and you can bring a guest. Don't miss this opportunity.
St. Jo Frontier Casino
777 Winners Circle

NEW MEMBERS

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

Lyndsay L Salon
Lyndsay Thurn
3315 Miller Ave. (06)
(816) 387-1935
lyndsaysalon@me.com
www.lyndsaysalon.com
Beauty Salons & Services

K.O. Cleaning Solutions
Tyler Seever
3809 East Hills Drive (03)
(816) 351-7009
info@kocleaningsolutions.com
www.kocleaningsolutions.com
Carpet, Upholstery & Drapery Cleaning

Eagles Lodge Aerie & Auxiliary #49
Catina Rullman
2004 N. Belt Highway (06)
(816) 279-3014
auveagle49@gmail.com
Charitable Organizations