



CHAMBER Connections

Connecting the
Chamber with
members in a
monthly news
source

The President's Perspective

Community Investment

From time to time I get asked the question, "Is there a tax the Chamber has not endorsed?" Before I answer, let me offer some perspective. First, no one likes to pay taxes. Let's understand though, just as we are asked to pay for goods and services from private businesses, government services come with a cost as well, thus we pay taxes.

In Missouri, we have a peculiar way of funding government services. We require local government to go to the voters any time they need additional funds. This is unique. While most states require voters to approve debt, such as bonds, few states require local governments to ask voters for approval to raise taxes, when necessary, to pay for operational costs as we do in Missouri.

So when it comes time to balance the budget or make needed investments in the community, the city

must come to the voters to ask for an approval to raise taxes. Frankly, I do not consider this a very efficient process. In my mind, it undermines representative government. Isn't this why we elect people to represent us? So they can make decisions for which they should be informed and responsible?

Ok, back to the original question. My answer is, I am not aware that the Chamber has spoken against a tax that represented a needed investment in the community. The truth is that the Chamber advocates making those investments in the community, which in turn make St. Joseph a better place to live and work. It is not about voting for or against a tax. It is about making a decision as to what is best for our community. If after consideration we believe St. Joseph will be a better community with the proposed community investment, then we have an obligation to provide our support, even if the result may be an increase in taxes.



R. Patt Lilly
President & CEO

NEW MEMBERS

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

Monroe Martial Arts

Cindy Monroe
106 S. Belt Highway (06)
(816) 671-1133
cmonroe@atakicksmart.com
www.atakicksmart.com

MARTIAL ARTS

Oxi Fresh Carpet Cleaning

Bill & Gail Edding
8889 S.E. 28th Road (07)
(816) 364-4694
oxifresh_nwmo@yahoo.com
www.oxifresh.com

CARPET, UPHOLSTERY & CARPET CLEANING

Spaces Inc.

Chris McCormack
14950 W. 86th St., Lenexa, KS 66215
(913) 894-8900
cmccormack@spacesinc.com
www.spacesinc.com

FURNITURE

Crossroads Hospice

Janet Hessenflow, RN
9237 Ward Parkway, Ste. 300
Kansas City, MO 64114
(816) 333-9200
janet.hessenflow@crossroadshospice.com

www.crossroadshospice.com

HEALTH SERVICES

Spaeth Construction, LLC

Conrad Spaeth
15735 Eden Drive, Savannah, MO 64485
(816) 294-9647
conradspaeth@yahoo.com
HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Cluck Construction

Randy Cluck
1522 S. 10th St. (03)
(816) 232-5630
randy@cluckconstruction.com
www.cluckconstruction.com
GENERAL CONTRACTORS

H. Steven Hoerath, DDS

Trudie Hoerath
1202 Village Drive, Ste. B (06)
(816) 364-2397
hshoerathdds@sbcglobal.net
www.hshoerathdental.com
DENTISTS

Big Brothers Big Sisters

Tiffany Miller
1202 S. 28th St. (07)
(816) 671-4090
tiffany@bbbsstjoe.org
www.bbbsstjoe.org
CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY/SERVICES

Data Drive Strategies LLC

Colin Hoffman
4305 Frederick Ave. Ste. 100 C (06)
(816) 261-7884
colinhoffman@gmail.com
www.datadrivenstrategies.net
CONSULTANTS

Express Employment Professionals

Vern Patterson
139 N. Belt Highway, Ste. J (06)
(816) 273-0038
vernon.patterson@expresspro.com
EMPLOYMENT SERVICES



Hundreds Attend Parties on the Parkway

The annual Parties on the Parkway series is hitting its summer stride. There was a great turnout for the July event. You have one more chance to attend this summer for the mid-week, after-hours, family-friendly networking event on Aug. 8. Find more information on the calendar on the back of this page. Rockin' on the River, the annual encore to Parties on the Parkway, will be held in September instead of October. Hope to see you there on Saturday, Sept. 7, from 4 to 8 p.m. Make sure to stay for the fireworks!

August Calendar

All members, employees and guests are invited to attend events. Call the Chamber for any dietary needs.

DIPLOMATS CLUB Breakfast

Presented by Heartland Health

The Diplomats Club provides opportunities to promote your business and serves as a link between the Chamber and the community. Join them for their monthly meeting! This month will be held in conjunction with Chiefs Training Camp!

Thursday, Aug. 1
7:15 to 8:30 a.m., \$5

Breakfast provided

Chiefs Camp, MWSU Tent
4525 Downs Drive

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:

816/232-4461 or www.saintjoseph.com

New Member Luncheon

Presented by Luna's Fine Dining

Join other new members, Chamber staff and Board members for introductions and an orientation to the Chamber's programs and services.

Thursday, Aug. 1
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Free

St. Joseph Metro Chamber
3003 Frederick Ave.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:

816/232-4461 or www.saintjoseph.com

Parties on the Parkway

Presented by Nodaway Valley Bank

Join us for Parties on the Parkway! These fun events are open to the public and allow those who attend to enjoy food, drinks, live music and St. Joseph's incredible Parkway system. Food and beverages are available for purchase. No alcoholic beverages may be brought into the event. Please bring your own lawn chair or blanket. Proceeds benefit the Friends of the Park. The Friends and Family band will play classic pop and oldies.

Thursday, Aug. 8
5 to 8 p.m., FREE

Across from Corby Pond
(Rain date: Aug. 15)

Lunch & Learn Seminar

Presented by Missouri Western State University

Topic -- "Maintain Employer Wellness Costs"

Kristie Arthur, Service Leader of Health and Productivity Management for Community Health Improvement Solutions, will give tips and strategies on how to create a healthy work environment. She will discuss how these ideas help maintain healthcare costs while improving productivity.

*Lunch by Blecker
Street Deli Co.*

Tuesday, Aug. 13
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., \$10

St. Joseph Metro Chamber
3003 Frederick Ave.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:

816/232-4461 or
www.saintjoseph.com

BUSINESS after HOURS

Presented by Altec

Make some new business connections at this networking event. Bring your business cards to exchange with other Chamber members!

Tuesday, Aug. 20
5 to 7 p.m., Free

Ramada Inn Conference Center
4016 Frederick Blvd.



Presented by Altec

Join LEAD (Leaders Engaging And Developing) for "Cocktails with Conway." State Representative Pat Conway will join the group to discuss an issue facing the State of Missouri. **RSVP by Aug. 19 to redmond@saintjoseph.com.**

Thursday, Aug. 22
5 p.m., Free

Cash bar available

Foster's Wine & Martini Bar
726 Felix St.

Small Business Technology Series

Presented by the Institute for Industrial & Applied Life Sciences

The Chamber and Northwest Missouri State University's Small Business & Technology Development Center will present a series of learning events that focus on small business and technology. This event is titled "10 Best Practices to Rev Up Your Relationships, Referrals, & Revenues with E-mail Marketing." Presenter Paige Cahill, of Constant Contact, will explain how communicating with your customers regularly can help you stay connected, and generate increased referrals, repeat sales, and unwavering customer loyalty.

Thursday, Aug. 29
8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., FREE

St. Joseph Metro Chamber
3003 Frederick Ave.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:

816/232-4461 or www.saintjoseph.com
20 or more required to RSVP to host seminar.

Now in Our New Location! 1806 Oakridge Circle, St. Joseph, Missouri 64506



Gertsema Wealth Management Group

Mike Gertsema, Senior Vice President/Investments

Austin Nold, Financial Advisor



Allen Heck, First Vice President/Investments



Chuck Sinclair, CFP®, First Vice President/Investments

Terry Utley, First Vice President/Investments



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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**