

May 2017

Connecting the Chamber with members in a monthly news source.



# Connections

## ST. JOSEPH Chamber of Commerce

### The President's Perspective

#### *This Is On Us*

I have written on several occasions about the importance of the public schools in St. Joseph. We are fortunate to have some very fine private schools here, but without a strong public school system, our community suffers. Case in point, over the last several months I have become aware of at least a half-dozen senior management people relocating for jobs in St. Joseph who have decided to live in the north Kansas City area because of the schools here. These are just the ones that I have heard of. When asked what is the problem with St. Joseph schools, they talk about stories on the Internet.

First, let me say we need to get over the blame game. Changes have been made and people have left the district. Blame has now become an excuse not to do anything, and that's a problem. As a community, we need to move on and focus on making our school district better.

Next, we need to get involved. The school district is going through a very important engagement process and is asking for the community to come forward to discuss future challenges and opportunities. Attend one of these meetings and ask the administration about finances, what they have done to improve efficiencies and how they have addressed decision-making transparency. Then tell them what you would like to see for the future, new programs, new facilities, smaller class sizes and perhaps more focus on vocational/technical education. This is your opportunity to shape the future of

education in St. Joseph. If blame is still your game, then attend a meeting and blame someone. Maybe you will get it out of your system.

With this input, the School Board will need to decide the way forward. I expect based on my understanding of school finances, a revenue issue will be considered in the future. This will require that a plan be developed outlining exactly how funds will be spent and the expected outcomes. All of this must come from a community wide process so residents can understand and accept what needs to be done.

The situation with our schools must be fixed. This is on us as a community. No one is going to help us, we must be willing to step up and be part of the solution, be engaged and be willing, when the time comes, to do what is right for the future of our school system. Over the last several months, I have seen what the future could look like with people locating to Kansas City. This is a future St. Joseph can't afford or allow. It's on us to fix the problem!



R. Patt Lilly  
President & CEO



### April Gave Members Many Opportunities to Meet and Talk Up Their Businesses

Left, Diplomat members Lisa Little and Mary Gaston, stand with the Chamber Oscar at Primetime, a new member showcase and after hours networking event at the Green Acres Ballroom. Above, members gathered for Business During The Day, a morning mixer held at Paradox Coffee and Theatre. Both events are hosted by members of the Diplomats Club.

## NEW MEMBERS

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

#### Chase Consulting LLC

Christine Chase  
8890 N. Pomona Ave. No. 206  
Kansas City, MO 64153  
(202) 854-1240  
christine.chase@chaseconsultingllc.com  
www.chaseconsultingllc.com

#### Consultants

#### Marks Media

Steve Marks  
620 Francis St., Ste. 212 (01)  
(816) 396-9260  
steve@marksmedia.co  
www.marksmedia.co

Advertising, Graphic Arts & Design,  
Marketing, Video Production and  
Web Development

#### Smoothie King

Brandon Nichols  
3508 N. Belt Highway (06)  
(816) 273-5511  
smoothieking1491@outlook.com  
www.smoothieking.com

#### Fitness

#### Grandpa's Snack Shack

Dick Couldry  
3407 S.W. Christie Lane (04)  
(816) 244-1326  
dickcouldry@yahoo.com  
Food Service

#### Goodwill of Western MO and Eastern KS

Nshan Erganian  
3609 Faraon St. (06)  
(816) 232-3108  
nerganian@mokangoodwill.org  
www.mokangoodwill.org  
Employment Services

#### Eat Fit Go

Erin Sroboda  
5301 N. Belt Highway Ste. 113 (06)  
(816) 259-5128  
stjoe@eatfitgo.com  
www.eatfitgo.com

#### Restaurants

#### Fantastic Fidos

Alyson Thompson  
6108 N. Belt Highway (06)  
(816) 364-0988  
alyson@fantasticfidos.com  
www.fantasticfidos.com  
Pet Boarding

#### Easterseals Midwest

Wendy Sullivan  
3126 Hirter Drive (06)  
(800) 200-2119  
wendy.sullivan@esmw.org  
www.eastersealsmidwest.org  
Disability Services & Resources



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

# May Calendar

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

## 3 & 17 Circle of Influence

May 3 & 17; May 11 and 25

11 & 25

Circle of Influence is a leads group composed of small business professionals who are looking to increase their revenue by forming relationships with other Chamber members for the purpose of exchanging 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. There is a \$100 joining fee. 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](mailto:redmond@saintjoseph.com) or (816) 364-4107.

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Guests Free

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## Lunch & Learn Seminar

*Lunch by Not Just Desserts*

Tuesday, May 9

11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., \$10  
3003 Frederick Ave.

Presented by CliftonLarsonAllen

Topic: Generational Differences — Identifying and Adapting in the Workplace  
Gen Ys? Gen Zs? Millennials? Generational differences are a reality in the modern workplace. Basic generational differences will be highlighted and explained. Tips and tricks to deal with these differences in the workplace will be given. This will help foster more meaningful relationships with work colleagues, as well as make the workplace more efficient.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:

816/232-4461 or

[www.saintjoseph.com](http://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, May 11

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

Breakfast provided

St. Joseph Country Club  
50 Ridgeland Road

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:

816/232-4461 or [www.saintjoseph.com](http://www.saintjoseph.com)

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## PARTIES ON THE PARKWAY

Presented by Nodaway Valley Bank

Join us for Parties on the Parkway! These 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 band will be *Soca Jukebox*.

Thursday, May 11

5 to 8 p.m., FREE

S.W. Parkway and King Hill Drive  
(Rain date: May 18)

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## BUSINESS after HOURS

Presented by Altec Industries, Inc.

Need to broaden your portfolio of potential clients and customers? Make some new real life connections at this networking event.

Tuesday, May 16

5 to 7 p.m., Free

Pronto Cafe

2513 Frederick Ave.

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## LEAD

Presented by Altec Industries, Inc.

LEAD, the Chamber's group of young professionals will tour Hillyard Industries at this month's meeting, which is limited to 25 people. No open-toed shoes are allowed.

Thursday, May 18

8 to 9:30 a.m., Free

Hillyard Industries  
302 N. Fourth St.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:

816/232-4461 or [www.saintjoseph.com](http://www.saintjoseph.com)

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## Women's Leadership Group

Presented by Sam's Club

Co-sponsored with Northwest Missouri State University's Small Business and Technology Development Center, each month has a different featured topic for women business owners, managers and employees. This month get a personality color test to learn how your personality works with others.

Monday, May 22

12 to 1 p.m., FREE

Green Acres Building, Room 169  
3500 Village Drive  
Bring your own lunch

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](http://www.saintjoseph.com)**

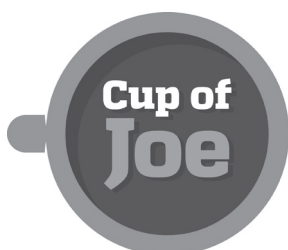


Help boost the bottom line of a fellow Chamber member in a short amount of time by shopping in a Cash Mob. Bring cash (or a card) and check out a retailer that maybe you've never been to before. Buy something for yourself or for a friend, and make it a good day for a local business.

4 to 6 p.m.

Wednesday, May 10

Gypsy's Jewelry and Gifts, 3302 Mitchell Ave.



Each week, the Cup of Joe program offers local entrepreneurs an opportunity to share their experience with a diverse audience of mentors, advisors, and fellow business owners. To learn more and see who is presenting this week, see the group's website at [cupofjoe-sj.com](http://cupofjoe-sj.com) or its Facebook page, [facebook.com/cupofjoestjoe](https://facebook.com/cupofjoestjoe).

Cup of Joe also is utilizing Facebook Live now, so if you aren't able to make it in person, check it out from your phone, tablet or desktop on Facebook.

Free

Wednesdays

8:30 a.m., coffee; program starts at 9 a.m. and ends at 10 a.m.  
East Hills Library, 502 N. Woodbine Road