



# Connections

**ST. JOSEPH**  
Chamber of Commerce

## The President's Perspective

*Here we go again!*

With the start of the new year begins the next session of the Missouri Legislature. In 2017, there was good progress made on a number of business-related issues, but as is often the case, many important issues got kicked down the road. What we know for sure about 2018 is that it is an election year, which typically does not bode well for the Legislature tackling tough issues.

Following adjournment last year, a special state-wide task force was commissioned to consider transportation funding. The debate over how we fund Missouri's transportation system has been ongoing for a decade with little or no progress. While the task force report and recommendations have yet to be released, you can assume that additional funding will be recommended to maintain and improve our highway system. This is not a big mystery. The question is where will the revenue come from? Most believe a gas tax increase is the most straight forward and reasonable answer, probably something in the .5 to .10 range. Will it happen? Don't bet on it. There will be debate and discussion and perhaps the issue might even make it to the ballot, but I have my doubts legislators, in an election year, will actually vote to increase the gas tax.

To digress, is there a reason we vote for people to serve in the

Legislature and then these same elected officials turn around and ask us to vote on a decision they should make? Hopefully this will not be the case with transportation funding.

Other issues of importance in the upcoming session will be funding for education, sales tax on internet sales, tax reform, funding for job training and maintaining historic tax credits. As is often the case, there are no easy answers, but all of these issues have importance to those of us who live in Missouri.

The St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce will keep you informed during the session and may periodically ask for your assistance in supporting an issue by sending an email or making a call to your senator or representative. The business community working together can make a difference.

Ok, ready, set, go!



R. Patt Lilly  
President & CEO

## NEW MEMBERS

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

### Mytown2go - St. Joe

Donovan Grace  
5124 S.W. 32nd Terr  
Topeka, KS 66614  
(785) 438-7806  
donovan@mytown2go.com  
mytown2go.com

#### Food Service

### North Central Missouri College

Sharon Weiser  
6530 N. Belt Highway,  
Country Club, MO 64506  
(816) 232-1768  
sweiser@mail.ncmissouri.edu  
ncmissouri.edu/nbc

#### Community College

### Michael Papanek Sporting Goods

Michael Papanek  
3123 Miller Ave. (06)  
(816) 390-3006  
firestickmp@aol.com

#### Sporting Goods

### Kaw Valley Companies

Jason Jacobson  
5600 Kansas Ave.  
Kansas City, MO 66106  
(913) 281-9950  
jasonj@kvco.net

#### Construction

### The Advisory Board Company

Colbi Furman  
2445 M St. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20037  
(202) 266-6315  
furmanc@advisory.com  
www.advisory.com

#### Consultants

### The Jeremy Eaton

Jeremy Eaton  
3900 Frederick Ave. (06)  
(816) 752-8333  
jeremy@thejeremyeaton.com  
thejeremyeaton.com

#### Arts Organization

### Crane Agency

Quinten Lovejoy  
P.O. Box 21, Cameron, MO 64429  
(816) 390-6835  
qlovejoy@craneagency.com  
www.craneagency.com

#### Insurance

### Reba Herbert

4207 St. Joseph Ave. (05)  
(816) 244-1422  
rmkhebert@gmail.com

#### Civic Membership

### Dana Massin

1070 N. Noyes Blvd. (06)  
(402) 560-6905  
dana.m.massin@gmail.com

#### Civic Membership

### HPI Products Inc.

William Garvey  
P.O. Box 997 (07)  
(816) 233-1237  
billgarv@hpi.com

#### Manufacturers

### Remington Nature Center

Andrea McCoy  
1502 McArthur Drive (05)  
(816) 271-5499  
amccoy@stjoemo.org  
www.stjoenaturecenter.info

#### Museum

### Ferguson Waterworks

Nadine Walther  
1251 N. Century Ave.  
Kansas City, MO 64120  
nadine.walther@ferguson.com  
www.ferguson.com/waterworks

#### Underground Utility Contractor

### Dr. Wade Hampton

6 Antilles Drive (06)  
(816) 261-2399  
drwade@drwade.org  
www.hamptonmediation.net

#### Civic Membership

### S&S BBQ

Carrie Sponseller  
3214 Neighbor Road (06)  
(816) 383-2037  
bbqisus@gmail.com  
www.bbqisus.com

#### Caterer

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



## Another Big Year for Holiday Party

Each year the Chamber's Holiday Party is always a hit as hundreds of members come out to network and sample food and drinks from caterers. This year was no exception as guests filled the upstairs and downstairs area of the Paradox Theatre. As always, thank you for your membership and support of the Chamber. The year 2017 was a record year for the Chamber in terms of membership growth. Let's keep up the good work in 2018!

# January Calendar

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

## 3, 17/ Circle of Influence

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.

Jan. 3 & 17 and Jan. 11 and 25  
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Guests Free

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## Lunch & Learn Seminar

*Lunch by the Fredrick Inn*

Presented by CliftonLarsonAllen  
"7 Happiness Habits to Help You to Have Your Best Year Yet!"

Learn from the experts, as well as first-hand experience, on how seven simple, yet profound happiness habits will lead to a more positive, productive, and a happier "you." No matter what personality you were born with, no matter what your circumstances are, you can boost your level of happiness by using these highly effective happiness habits! Put them into practice in your daily life and you'll find yourself more productive in your work, more loving in your relationships and more successful in your life! Presented by Tim Crowley, Ph.D..

Tuesday, Jan. 9  
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., \$10  
St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce  
3003 Frederick Ave.

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! This month the Dips will help set up the Annual Banquet decorations at the Civic Arena.

Thursday, Jan. 11  
7:15 to 8:30 a.m., Free

Breakfast provided  
Civic Arena  
100 N. Fourth St.

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

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## 98th Annual Banquet

Presented by Commerce Bank

Join us for the 98th Annual Banquet, which will be a "Masquerade Ball." Doors open at 6:30 p.m., with dinner at 7 p.m. Entertainment will be provided by Howl at the Moon Dueling Pianos. Dinner will be catered by Luna's Fine Dining.

Saturday, Jan. 13  
6:30 p.m., \$50 or \$60 after Jan. 8

Dinner provided  
Civic Arena  
100 N. Fourth St.

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

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## Women's Leadership Group

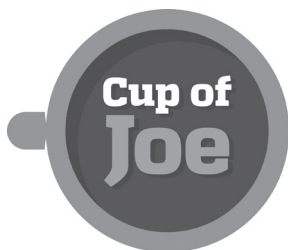
Presented by Sam's Club

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 is a special Mentoring Monday event. The event will offer the opportunity to choose from area women mentors for one-on-one coaching sessions. When not meeting with a mentor the ladies will get the chance to network with each other or have table discussions on topics facing women today. Women attending will find this event to be fast, fun and fulfilling as everyone gets the chance to meet new people and gain new insights.

Monday, Jan. 22  
8:30 to 10 a.m., \$10  
Breakfast provided  
Moila, 701 N. Noyes Blvd.

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

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)**



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://www.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

## Need help recruiting or retaining talent?



The Made With Uncommon Character campaign can help your business recruit top talent and keep your best employees. St. Joseph has a lot to offer and has tremendous character in our people, architecture and amenities.

Visit the website below and follow Made With Uncommon Character on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for interesting stories, a community calendar and resources you can give to potential employees -- like housing, school, healthcare options and more.

Need a brochure or goodie bag to give recruits? We have them! E-mail [bailey@saintjoseph.com](mailto:bailey@saintjoseph.com).

[uncommoncharacter.com](http://uncommoncharacter.com)