

August 2018

Connecting the Chamber with members in a monthly news source.



Connections

ST. JOSEPH
Chamber of Commerce

The President's Perspective

Interesting Times

There is a phrase that has been spoken in the past that owes its origin to a Chinese proverb, "may you live in interesting times." For better or worse, we live in interesting times in St. Joseph. There is much to be optimistic about and there is much to be concerned with. That said, I believe as a community we find ourselves at a turning point in our history. Do we seize the opportunity to be better or simply allow it to pass us by?

The challenges we face in St. Joseph are becoming clearer and more understandable. We need to make our city a place where people want to move to and stay. This means addressing the condition of our older neighborhoods and housing. Requiring inspections, holding rental property owners responsible for the condition of their property, ensuring safe and reliable housing, and finding an effective way to collect and remove trash and debris from the community. These issues must be pursued. This is not a unique challenge or unattainable. Successful communities across the nation have programs that address neighborhood revitalization, safe housing and solid waste disposal. Why not here? Why not now?

To make St. Joseph successful, you must have a successful educational system, public, private and parochial. Taking the attitude that "it's good enough" for St. Joseph is just not going to cut it. We are in competition with every other community in the country for talent and jobs. Talent is and will be in the future, the most important commodity for business attraction, growth and success. We need to grow the talent, attract the talent, and keep the talent. This begins

and ends with an outstanding educational system in St. Joseph. If you do not believe me, ask any business in town. We must get this right and every day we waste bickering about it simply means we get further behind in the race for talent.

An issue that most communities do not like to think about is poverty. We can no longer ignore those who live in poverty in St. Joseph. Aside from the human toll of those in need, it undermines our future success as a community. Good jobs are part of the solution, but education, housing, transportation and finding ways to connect with those in need are part of the solution as well. Poverty in our community may be our toughest challenge but recognizing it and working to solve it is fundamental to be a community that people want to be a part of.

The community planning initiative Imagine St. Joseph 2040 will offer a vision for our future and create a path to get there, but it will be up to us to bring that future to life.

Yes, these are interesting times in St. Joseph, but it is also time for us to come together and muster the courage to pursue a better community and a brighter future. It can't get more interesting than that!



R. Patt Lilly
President & CEO

COJOE

Website: cojoe.saintjoseph.com
E-mail: cojoe@saintjoseph.com
518 Felix St.
816-364-4115

Trying to get work done at coffee shops can be a hassle.

If you are a small business owner, freelancer or other entrepreneur who is looking for modern, clean office space available for rent by the day or more long term, check out CoJoe, an innovative coworking space located in historic Downtown St. Joseph.

CoJoe provides an alternative to both the distractions of working at home or a public space, as well as the logistics of maintaining a private office.

NEW MEMBERS

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

Kansas City Life Insurance Company
Amy Angotti Bilbo
3520 Broadway,
Kansas City, MO 64111
(816) 753-7299
amy.angotti@kclife.com
kclgroupbenefits.com
Insurance

Inspector Dryer Vent
Gary Yates
3125 Floral Ave. (06)
(816) 269-0162
stjochimneysweep@gmail.com
Dryer Vent Services

AT Productions
Alyson Fisher
6108 N. Belt Highway (06)
(816) 261-3925
alyson@productions-at.com
productions-at.com
Consultants

Keller Williams -- Maribeth Samenus
4313 N.W. Briarcliff Lane
Kansas City, MO 64116
(816) 289-0520
maribethsamenus@kw.com
Realtor (Associate)

Montessori School of Innovative Learning of St. Joseph LLC
Don Hannah
606 Woodbine Road (07)
(816) 390-7711
montessoriofstjoe@gmail.com
Childcare

Karen Couldry
3906 Damacus Drive (06)
(515) 577-2955
karensclimbers@gmail.com
Civic Member

Rebecca Dunlap
6003 S.E. Monroe Road,
Agency, MO 64401
(816) 387-7543
rdunlap1978@gmail.com
Civic Member

Ben's Asphalt
Erik Benson
901 Jules St. (01)
(816) 259-5140
erik.benson@bensasphalt.com
www.bensasphalt.com
Asphalt Contractors

RisRanDer Services
Teresa Parks
3706 W. Colony Square (06)
(816) 341-9789
risrander3@yahoo.com
Consultants

Renew Crew
Rob Howatt
3811 Faraon St. (06)
(816) 233-9663
rhowat@renewcrewclean.com
www.renewcrewclean.com
Home Improvements

August Calendar

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

1 **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!

Wednesday, Aug. 1
7:15 a.m., \$7

Breakfast provided
Chiefs Training Camp
MWSU, 4525 Downs Drive

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

1 & 15 9 & 23 **Circle of Influence**

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 or (816) 364-4107.

Aug. 1 & 15 -- Aug. 9 & 23
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., **Guests Free**

9 **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 **Jason Craig & the Wingmen**.

Thursday, Aug. 9
5 to 8 p.m, **Free**
Corby Pond
(Rain date: Aug. 16)

10 &
29

SMALL BUSINESS TECH SERIES

Presented by T.S. Conard, Inc. Technology Solutions

Session Three: Learn how different generations communicate using technology and why it matters from Gail Hermesch of Strategic Impact. Bring your own lunch.

Session Four: "Viruses & Dark Web: The Business Owner's Guide to Protecting Your Company." Every company that attends will receive a complimentary Dark Web scan to assess your exposure RIGHT NOW on the dark web. Join T.S. Conard's David Cooksey as he explores the real world threats that plague modern business, and discover the solutions to combat against them. Happy hour provided.

Friday, Aug. 10
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., **FREE**
St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce
3003 Frederick Ave.

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

Wednesday, Aug. 29
5 to 6:30 p.m., **FREE**
CoJoe, 518 Felix St.

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

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Lunch & Learn Seminar

Presented by CliftonLarsonAllen

Topic: Employee Engagement -- How to Get the Right People in the Right Place and Effectively Lead Them

Learn how to better recruit, select, place and manage employees and ask yourself some important questions about how you hire today, what you know about personality, if you know if someone is the optimal fit and much more. The seminar will feature John B. Conger, III, of Culture Index.

Lunch by Bracy's Cafe

Tuesday, Aug. 14
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

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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. No RSVP necessary. This month Corky Marquart, CEO and Market President of Commerce Bank, will present "How to be Respected as a Leader."

Monday, Aug. 27
12 to 1 p.m., **FREE**
St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce
3003 Frederick Ave.
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**



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