



### The President's Perspective

#### Fun Facts

As you would probably guess I often get asked about the St. Joseph economy. I will answer questions and offer comments that some people find hard to believe – “You don’t mean St. Joseph?” So here are a few facts to consider:

- St. Joseph is the third largest exporter in the State of Missouri with almost \$1 billion in exports annually. This is more than twice as much as Springfield, Mo.
- The average annual wage in Buchanan County (based on full-time employment) now stands at \$44,439 annually. This is an increase of 5 percent from this time last year. In fact, Buchanan County now has the highest average annual wage of any county outside the St. Louis and Kansas City urban areas except for Ralls County. Yes, higher than Greene County, where Springfield is located.
- Manufacturing has always been important to St. Joseph and with good reason. Buchanan County is one of the leading counties for manufacturing in Missouri. Buchanan County’s Location Quotient (LQ) is over 2.2. Anything over 1.0 represents an employment concentration greater than the national average. The county’s LQ is the highest in Northwest Missouri and in the Kansas City area. In addition, St. Joseph has the third highest manufacturing gross domestic product (GDP) in the State of Missouri.
- The number of people employed in St. Joseph’s metropoli-

tan statistical area continues to grow and hit a new record of 65,099 employed in June of this year.

- The local office of the Missouri Career Center recently reported that there are over 800 open job positions in the St. Joseph area, with 600 of these being in manufacturing. The office only received 128 applications for employment this past month, underscoring the tight labor market and historically low unemployment in St. Joseph.



R. Patt Lilly  
President & CEO

Yes, I mean St. Joseph!

While these facts offer some insight to the current state of our local economy the reality is, we must continue to focus on attracting new companies and growing new jobs. As we know, and as history has taught us, there will be periods of job loss in the future. But to grow new jobs we must have people to fill those jobs, thus we must also continue to focus on workforce development, to better prepare our future workforce and attract additional talent to St. Joseph. The jobs are here.

And yes, I mean St. Joseph!

# COJOE

Website: [cojoe.saintjoseph.com](http://cojoe.saintjoseph.com)  
E-mail: [cojoe@saintjoseph.com](mailto: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:

**Ally's Galleria**  
Melvin Miller  
3421 Gene Field Road (06)  
(816) 259-5175  
[allysgalleria@gmail.com](mailto:allysgalleria@gmail.com)  
[allysgalleria.com](http://allysgalleria.com)  
**Floor Coverings**

**Puppy Love Dog Salon**  
**Play N Stay Resort**  
Kim Blake  
302 S. Woodbine Road (06)  
(816) 232-7877  
[puppylovestjoe@gmail.com](mailto:puppylovestjoe@gmail.com)  
[www.puppylovedogsalon.com](http://www.puppylovedogsalon.com)  
**Pet Grooming**

**Joe Town Mini Golf**  
Joe Lane  
5320 N. Belt Highway (06)  
[joetownminigolf@gmail.com](mailto:joetownminigolf@gmail.com)  
[www.joetownminigolf.com](http://www.joetownminigolf.com)  
**Entertainment**

**Sports Page**  
Stacy & Leigh Spicer  
411 W. Main St., Savannah, MO 64485  
(816) 324-3886  
[sportspage.leigh@gmail.com](mailto:sportspage.leigh@gmail.com)  
**Screen Printing**

**Paycor**  
Kathy Bellew  
8050 Marshall Drive, Ste. 100,  
Lenexa, KS 66214  
(913) 236-0102  
[kbellew@paycor.com](mailto:kbellew@paycor.com)  
[www.paycor.com](http://www.paycor.com)  
**Payroll**

**Molly Pierce**  
4604 Manor Drive (06)  
(816) 387-7039  
[mollypierce@me.com](mailto:mollypierce@me.com)  
**Civic Member**

**Wine Guide with Traveling Vineyard**  
Jenny Jones  
304 Mesa Drive, Smithville, MO 64089  
(816) 294-0700  
[thetravelingwinegal@gmail.com](mailto:thetravelingwinegal@gmail.com)  
[travelingvineyard.com/guide/764171](http://travelingvineyard.com/guide/764171)  
**Winery**

**Kona Ice of St. Joseph**  
Kristi Porter  
22052 W. 66th St., Ste. 324,  
Shawnee, KS 66226  
(913) 231-7647  
[kporter@kona-ice.com](mailto:kporter@kona-ice.com)  
[www.kona-ice.com](http://www.kona-ice.com)  
**Ice Creams & Frozen Desserts**

**Musical Moments by Bren**  
Brenda Miller Scamurra  
8614 S.E. King Hill Road (04)  
(816) 294-2195  
[musicalmomentsbybren@gmail.com](mailto:musicalmomentsbybren@gmail.com)  
[www.musicalmomentsbybren.com](http://www.musicalmomentsbybren.com)  
**Entertainment**

**Airgas an Air Liquide Company**  
Greg Burns  
1111 S. Eighth St. (03)  
(816) 232-8152  
[greg.burns@airgas.com](mailto:greg.burns@airgas.com)  
[www.airgas.com](http://www.airgas.com)  
**Welding Equipment & Supplies**

# September Calendar

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

## 5 & 19 Circle of Influence

Sept. 5 & 19 -- Sept. 13 & 27  
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Guests Free

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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.

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## Primetime

Presented by Fairway Independent Mortgage Corp.

Don't miss this new member showcase! Meet the Chamber's newest members, see displays of products and services, as well as enjoy food and drinks by caterers in this Chamber Tastes event. We're rolling out the red carpet for our new members. Join the fun!

Thursday, Sept. 6

5 to 7 p.m., FREE

Castle Bridge Event Center,  
8403 U.S. Highway 59 South

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## Lunch & Learn Seminar

Presented by CliftonLarsonAllen

Topic: *Communicating in the Work World Fast Lane*

Learn how to communicate effectively with various entities on the job. Key points concerning communication and successfully conveying your message, as well as listening to others will be provided. Cindy Wells, 4-H Youth Development Specialist from the University of Missouri Extension, will give tips on how to communicate better with young co-workers.

*Lunch by Pizza Ranch*

Tuesday, Sept. 11

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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## NEW EXECUTIVE WELCOME

Presented by Kansas City Regional Association of REALTORS, St. Joseph Chapter

Join us for a special networking reception where we recognize those Chamber members who are new to management in St. Joseph. Want to be recognized? It's a great resume builder and you get a goodie bag! E-mail [redmond@saintjoseph.com](mailto:redmond@saintjoseph.com) to participate.

Tuesday, Sept. 11

4 to 6 p.m.

\$15, new execs; \$10 other attendees

Albrecht-Kemper Museum of Art  
2818 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!

Thursday, Sept. 13

7:15 a.m., \$7

Breakfast provided

YWCA

304 N. Eighth St.

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 *Under the Influence*.

Thursday, Sept. 13

5 to 8 p.m, Free

Remington Nature Center

(Rain date: Sept. 20)

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## Pop UP Mixer

Presented by Altec Industries, Inc.

Pop into a mixer to meet some new people in a casual environment. Make some new business connections, while maybe sneaking out of the office a little early.

Thursday, Sept. 20

4 to 6 p.m, Free

Pronto Cafe

2513 Frederick Ave.

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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 Dr. Brenda Smith, Midlife Wellness Center physician, will present "Women's Health Today."

Monday, Sept. 24

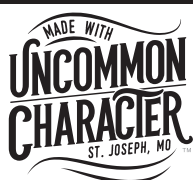
12 to 1 p.m., FREE

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

## 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)