

NEWS RELEASE



ST. JOSEPH
Chamber of Commerce

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DOWNTOWN OPEN SPACES TOUR AND WORKSHOP PLANNED

(St. Joseph, MO) -- St. Joseph is an entrepreneurial city and the St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce is coordinating a workshop and tour to help potential entrepreneurs open a business downtown. In conjunction with the St. Joseph Downtown Partnership, Downtown First and Downtown Association, an Open Spaces Tour and Workshop will be held at 2 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 13, starting at CoJoe, 518 Felix St.

In September 2016, Forbes magazine named St. Joseph the fifth top U.S. metro for startup growth. One of the businesses that has prospered downtown is Manic Snail, a paper and gift store.

"I wanted to test the Manic Snail concept as a small and intimate boutique," said Dana Massin, owner. "I found the perfect spot downtown and opened in May of 2018. Within five months, I was so pleased with the growth and interest from the community that I was able to move to a larger space downtown in October to continue growing my business and vision."

The event will begin at 2 p.m. with a workshop on how to open a business hosted by Annette Weeks of Missouri Western State University's Craig School of Business Center for Entrepreneurship. A tour will begin at 3 p.m. and include:

520 Felix St. – former Maid Rite Sandwich Shop

501 Francis St. – Donnell Court Building, constructed in 1902, this building was named for Robert Washington Donnell, who was one of the first settlers of the Platte Purchase.

723 Francis St. – former Duo Queue Internet Gaming

Downtown Landing – Two spaces available in this newly constructed facility downtown

114 S. Seventh St. – former Truth Dance Academy

116 S. Seventh St. – Telephone Building, built for the Missouri and Kansas Telephone Company in 1895, this was the first fireproof telephone exchange to be built in St. Joseph.

The tour will end at one of Downtown's newest businesses, 503 Winery. A wine tasting will be available, as well as snacks. Questions about the properties will be able to be answered.

Downtown supporters have compiled a list of possible ideas for businesses wanted in the area including florists, jewelers, a boutique hotel, dry cleaners, a grocery store and more. To see a flier with a full list of ideas, see saintjoseph.com.

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