

March 2019

Connecting the Chamber with members in a monthly news source.



Connections

ST. JOSEPH
Chamber of Commerce

The President's Perspective

Insanity

You have probably heard the old saying, "What is it called when you do the same thing over and over expecting different results? Insanity!" I believe this perfectly describes the community's approach to addressing the condition of residential properties in St. Joseph, especially rental housing. Are we to assume if we keep doing what we are doing now, which is virtually nothing, that somehow the residential housing in our older neighborhoods is going to get better? Not likely.

So, what can we do to improve our older neighborhoods and restore pride in these historic areas of St. Joseph? Certainly, we can focus on assisting those who wish to purchase an older home and restore it through grants that are currently offered by the city. We can work to secure or demolish dilapidated structures that are hazardous, as the city does now. We can expand the efforts of code enforcement to enforce property maintenance codes to encourage property owners to keep their property in good condition. Much of this is already being done and still we are losing the battle of neighborhood revitalization.

Of course, there is another idea that the City Council is currently discussing, creating a rental occupancy permit that would require a home to pass an inspection in order to be rented. The inspection would focus on basic safety in livability issues. A smoke detector, working plumbing, no exposed wiring, the roof does not leak, no debris in the yard, no broken-out windows, etc.... simply, a determination that the home is fit for people to live in.

So why do this? First, all people in our community should have the right to live in safe and decent housing. Second, those who own rental housing are operating a business, taking money and providing a service, and should be held responsible for their properties. Fortunately, most landlords are responsible. But in addition, a rental occupancy program will begin a process of improving and cleaning up rental property that is not being maintained. The result, better rental housing, cleaner neighborhoods, more interest by individuals to own homes in these neighborhoods, and a restored sense of pride. Can it happen? You bet it can. It has happened across the country in thousands of communities. I have witnessed it myself.

Sure, it's easy to keep doing the same thing but, I believe it's time St. Joseph begins doing things that are not easy, perhaps even hard. St. Joseph needs to be better and addressing the integrity and rehabilitation of our old neighborhoods is a big part of being a better community.

Let's join the ranks of the sane and do something different and not easy and clean up our older neighborhoods and rehabilitate our historic houses. A rental occupancy inspection program is a good place to start.



R. Patt Lilly
President & CEO

NEW MEMBERS

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

KCMG Broadcasting Group

Jim Bligh
1601 Maple, Chillicothe, MO 64601
(816) 599-3473
jimbligh@uclicktv.com
uclicktv.com
Television Stations

Aspen Dental

Cory Coleman
5101 N. Belt Highway (06)
(816) 385-5811
cory.coleman@aspendental.com
aspendental.com
Dentists

Elite Events

Ryan Rainey
3743 N.E. 46th Terrace,
Kansas City, MO 64117
(816) 390-2908
ryan@eliteeventsmo.com
eliteeventsmo.com
Entertainment

Cowell James Forge Insurance Group, LLC

Deena James
10525 N. Ambassador Drive
Kansas City, MO 64153
(816) 471-4245
djames@cjfig.com
cjfig.com
Insurance

Yellow Frog Graphics

John Durkin
5602 Corporate Drive (07)
(816) 233-3374
jdurkin@yellowfroggraphics.com
yellowfroggraphics.com
Graphic Arts & Design

Don Sasso Argentinian Restaurant LLC

Pilar Sasso
2715 N. Belt Highway (06)
(816) 259-5308
i.donsasso@gmail.com
Restaurant

MEMBER PORTAL

MEMBERS

only!

Thank you for being a valued Chamber member. As part of our commitment to providing the highest level of member value and engagement, we've launched a MEMBERS ONLY area...just for you!

In this area you can:

Update contact information

Pay invoices

Access exclusive content

Participate in surveys

Upload images to your online listing

View and Print Referral Reports

Take part in the Member-to-Member

Discount Program

Have more control of your membership

Visit saintjoseph.com and click on MEMBERS ONLY to log in.

Contact the Chamber at (816) 364-4103 or greiner@saintjoseph.com for help.

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



March Calendar

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

1 *Foodie Friday* **Friday, March 1**
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Free
Join other Chamber members as they experience foods all around St. Joseph in a new networking event. Enjoy specials at each restaurant and get to know some new business contacts. Free to attend, but cost of meal is up to the individual.
Pizza Shoppe
2229 N. Belt Highway

**6, 20/
14, 28** *Circle of Influence* **March 6 & 20 and March 14 and 28**
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Guests Free
Circle of Influence is a leads group composed of small business professionals looking to exchange 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 is allowed. Cost is \$100 to join. 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.

12 **Lunch & Learn Seminar** *Lunch by Lean Kitchen* **Tuesday, March 12**
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., \$10
Presented by CLA
"Building a Great Team"
This will be an interactive Lunch and Learn session with Stan Saunders, the Lead Pastor of Cornerstone Church. The session will identify and define three virtues necessary in an ideal team player. The discussion will include hiring, assessing current employees and volunteers, and developing those who are lacking in one or more of the virtues. The session will also provide self-evaluation tools.
St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce
3003 Frederick Ave.
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:
816/232-4461
or www.saintjoseph.com

14 **DIPLOMATS CLUB Breakfast** **Thursday, March 14**
7:15 to 8:30 a.m., \$7
Presented by Mosaic Life Care
Breakfast provided
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!
St. Joseph Country Club
50 Ridgeland Road
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:
816/232-4461 or www.saintjoseph.com

14 **BUSINESS after HOURS** **Thursday, March 14**
5 to 7 p.m., Free
Presented by Altec Industries, Inc.
Keller Williams
3915 Beck Road
Get to know some new business connections at our monthly business mixer. Bring your business cards and grow the list of business professionals you know in the St. Joseph community.

22 **FARM CITY BREAKFAST** **Friday, March 22**
7 to 9 a.m., \$12
Presented by LifeLine Foods
Word of Life Church
3902 N. Riverside Road
This popular event is held in celebration of National Ag Day. It recognizes the farmer/producer and the importance of agribusiness to the area economy. Proceeds benefit Agriculture Future of America (AFA) scholarships.
Tickets available at the Chamber or online

25 *Women's Leadership Group* **Monday, March 25**
Noon to 1 p.m. Free
Presented by Sam's Club
St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce
3003 Frederick Ave.
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. The topic this month will be volunteering and board service.
Bring your own lunch.

28 **BUSINESS after HOURS** **Thursday, March 28**
5 to 7 p.m., Free
Presented by Altec Industries, Inc.
Clear View Insurance Specialists
1307 Village Drive
There's no shortage of chances to meet new people through the Chamber! While any of our events could be seen as networking, Business After Hours are set up for just that. Bring your business cards, talk to some potential new customers and make some new friends.

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**

WHEN IS THE BEST TIME TO STEP UP YOUR MARKETING?

NOW!

TOTAL RESOURCE CAMPAIGN

As a Chamber member, you have a unique opportunity to spread your message with the St. Joseph business community and the general public. By sponsoring a Chamber event or program, advertising in a publication or investing in an initiative, you are not only helping brand your business to thousands of businesspeople and our residents, but supporting economic growth in St. Joseph. The TRC is about to begin. This is the **ONE TIME** a year that these marketing opportunities arise with the Chamber. Many educated volunteers are available to help match up your marketing needs with sponsorships and advertisements. If approached by a volunteer, please give them a few moments of your time. Better yet -- contact us and we'll set up an appointment with ideas ready for what might work best for you. **This marketing opportunity is available to Chamber members only!**

If you'd like to speak about how to best market your business with your Chamber membership, call (816) 364-4107 or e-mail redmond@saintjoseph.com