



# Connections

**ST. JOSEPH**  
Chamber of Commerce

## The President's Perspective

### Open for Business

As of this writing, all businesses in St. Joseph are now open following the City Health Department guidelines. I know that the many businesses that have been closed as well as many of their customers are pleased they are open. Of course, we must understand the virus is not going away, so we must reinforce individual responsibility with maintaining sanitation practices and social distancing.

In talking to many local business owners who have opened, they have expressed some concern that customers have not returned as quickly as they hoped. Though a bit disappointing, it is not surprising as people try to understand for themselves what they should do considering the virus as well as the guidelines. Customers understand that things are not normal, and they will have to get used to things being different for some time to come.

Also, history teaches us that a shock to the economy like we have sustained causes people to be fearful of the future, which leads to reducing or putting off spending. Even those who have not been directly impacted by the response to the virus, which there are few, will tend to draw back on expenditures. Most economists will agree the consumer is often the last one to return to the economy.

Of course, the good news is that local businesses are beginning to open and as people begin to venture out more will follow. As I have ventured out, I have been very impressed with the level of seriousness and preparedness business owners have demonstrated. It seems obvious that they are committed to keeping their employees and customers safe and healthy. Yes, they are following the City

guidelines, but it is more than that. They realize we are all in this together and they are doing their part while trying to save their business.

One of the best parts of my job is the pleasure of getting to know many of our local business owners and witnessing the grit and determination they put into their business every day. I have also seen during this time, their humanity as they wrestle with what is the right thing to do for themselves, their employees, their customers and their business given the uncertainty of the virus. There is no right or wrong in one's decision to open their business when given the opportunity. It is a matter for them of making a difficult decision given the realities they face. No one should be criticized whether they open or not. Each business owner is trying to make the best decision they can.

My hope is that people will get out in a safe way and support our local businesses. We need it, they need it. The reality is it will be different, but you will still get that friendly welcome and good service you expect; and perhaps an extra thank you for supporting their business at a difficult time.

So, St. Joseph, we are open for business. Visit, shop, eat and drink at a local business. They deserve it!



R. Patt Lilly  
President & CEO



## Workforce Webinar Series

Sponsor:



### Topic: How to Create Culture & Connectivity While Working Remotely

Tuesday, June 2 at 9:30 a.m.

One thing COVID-19 has brought us is more remote working and outside the box office models. In this webinar hear from Susan Campbell, Owner & Founder of SJC Marketing who has been doing an unconventional office model and managing remote workers for several years. Also hear from Gregg Roberts, Hillyard, Inc., Human Resources Vice President, who reacted quickly during the recent pandemic to create policies and provide a safe work environment for employees.

### Keeping the Talent Pipeline Warm

Tuesday, June 9, at 9:30 a.m.

Ashley Albers, of Nor-Am Cold Storage and Kristie Arthur, of the St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce, host a Virtual Uncommon Life HR Round Table discussion, which will move to break out rooms to facilitate small group conversations around what recruiting and retention looks like post COVID-19.

### Job Hunting Tips

Tuesday, June 16 at 9 a.m.

Do you need a few tips to get started in your job hunt? Visit with Kristie Arthur, Director of Workforce Development at the Chamber, about how to navigate the online job search. Network with other candidates and share ideas.

### Virtual Unemployment Logistics for Human Resource Professionals

Tuesday, June 30 at 9:30 a.m.

Join Becky Wiederholt, Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development, and Janice Spearman, Missouri Job Center, as they give examples on how to navigate the unemployment system during a mass layoff, the benefits of filing a WARN and workforce training options for furloughed employees. Please feel free to submit questions in advance by e-mail to arthur@saintjoseph.com

**Registration required at [saintjoseph.com](http://saintjoseph.com). Zoom link sent prior to event.**

**All webinars are approximately one hour long and will be posted on the Chamber's Online Member Portal afterward.**

*Uncommon Life is a talent recruitment & retainment program of the St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce presented by Altec Industries and Mosaic Life Care.*





# COVID-19

## Need to Know



### BUSINESS Resources



### HEALTH & Safety



### COUCH & Click

The Chamber has launched a new page of its website dedicated to helping businesses of all sizes during the COVID-19 crisis. Visit it to keep up to date on the latest news about health and safety, government regulations, financial and legal advice and more.

[saintjoseph.com/covid-19](http://saintjoseph.com/covid-19)

Also, see all the small businesses you can support on our Couch & Click page. See businesses that are offering delivery, curbside pickup, shipping, gift cards and who is open for business! Help save a small business today.

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

## LET'S CHAT!

LET US KNOW HOW WE CAN HELP

**In the digital world speed is king.  
The Chamber of Commerce membership team recently  
launched a live chat feature on the Chamber website.**

We want to provide an option for our members and visitors to engage with us quickly in a real-time, easy, convenient way.

While navigating our website the Chamber membership team will be instantly available to answer your questions about our member portal, events and registration, membership, business resources and so much more.

We want you to reach out. We want to engage. We want to be quick about it.

[Visit our website](#)

## WEBINARS & VIRTUAL NETWORKING

Just because we are social distancing doesn't mean educational and networking opportunities stop with the Chamber.

Watch our **Facebook** page and website for webinars on topics important to small business, those working from home, leadership through change and much more.



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