

May 2020

Connecting the Chamber with members in a monthly news source.



# Connections

## ST. JOSEPH Chamber of Commerce

### The President's Perspective

#### A Way Forward

As I noted in last month's newsletter, we are facing a new normal in our country, our community, our businesses and our personal lives as a result of the Coronavirus. The situation continues to evolve at a rapid pace. It also forces us to realize we are not in control, we are not sure what the next day or next week hold, creating significant insecurity. As I write the May newsletter column on April 15, we are not sure when we will begin to open up our economy in St. Joseph, but by the time you read this there should be more clarity to the issue.

What we do know is that there will be a time when businesses re-open and have the opportunity to welcome their customers back. As we begin to move closer to this welcomed event, we must focus on the way forward for our businesses and our community. This will, as has been stated by many, not be like turning on one light switch. For St. Joseph, it will be more like turning the lights on in your house room by room as we understand the reality of the new normal.

The Chamber is working with others that are part of the Community Alliance on a recovery plan for St. Joseph. It is from my perspective exciting, but also daunting. I have been involved in past recovery efforts involving storms and floods, but nothing of the magnitude of this recovery effort. Fortunately though, in the Community Alliance we have a good history of community leadership working together, which will be vital going forward.

Our goal is to create a recovery plan that provides a clear strategy for moving the community forward while minimizing the

challenges and the economic impacts we will face. First, we must help and support our businesses and their employees getting back to work. What will be required to open? What regulations will be in place and how will this impact employees and customers? Will types of businesses, i.e., bars and restaurants, be treated differently in terms of when they may open?



R. Patt Lilly  
President & CEO

There is also the consumer side that must be considered. Typically, the consumer is the last to return to the economy. We need them to come back quickly! This means making them feel secure about health safety. We need more access for COVID-19 testing and we need to make sure businesses have access to face masks and other protective equipment so customers feel safe and employees feel secure.

We then need to get out to the extent possible and celebrate in whatever ways the new normal allows – a chance again to enjoy our community and the many amenities we have.

This is just a glimpse of what the short-term part of the recovery strategy will focus on. We will be looking out over the next 12 to 18 months to address the ongoing challenges we will face together. It will not be easy, but knowing we have a way forward will offer hope and purpose as we embrace our new normal – something all of us can look forward to.

## NEW MEMBERS

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

**PV Home Inspections, LLC**  
Phil Vandel  
4207 Kensington Drive (06)  
(816) 351-7443  
phil@homeinspect.com  
www.pvhomeinspect.com  
**Home Inspections**

**The Sycamore Tree Venue**  
Cindy Hopkins  
16327 County Road 344  
Savannah, MO 64485  
(816) 752-0746  
sycamoretreebarn@gmail.com  
thesycamoretreevenue.com  
**Event Centers/Special Events**

**Copper Hill Golf Club**  
April Kendall  
6480 S.E. 169 Highway (07)  
(816) 646-9825  
copperhillgolfclub@gmail.com  
www.copperhillgolfclub.com  
**Golf Courses**



### Events Look a Little Different These Days at the Chamber

The Chamber has had hosting webinars and virtual events on its list of to-do items for quite some time, but COVID-19 made learning this technology a priority. You'll find the Chamber staff is dedicated to bringing you pertinent information, valuable programming and useful networking events, even if we can't meet in person. To the left is a Virtual Diplomats Meeting in April.



## Need help recruiting or retaining talent?

Uncommon Life is here to make recruiting employees to work and live in St. Joseph easier. The St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce has incorporated the Made with Uncommon Character brand to highlight why St. Joseph is a unique place... and why your recruits should call it home. This includes tools for you as a recruiter or human resources specialist to use when hiring and getting new hires acclimated to the community.

**Tours -- Gift Baskets -- Welcome Rallies -- Icebreakers -- Website**

To see tools: [uncommonlife.saintjoseph.com/hr](http://uncommonlife.saintjoseph.com/hr)

Share the website for potential residents: [uncommonlife.info](http://uncommonlife.info)



[www.saintjoseph.com](http://www.saintjoseph.com)  
(816) 232-4461  
[chamber@saintjoseph.com](mailto:chamber@saintjoseph.com)



# 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](https://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 and gift cards! Help save a small business today.

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

## SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES

## 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.

## WE'RE HERE FOR YOU

The Chamber is dedicated to helping businesses survive and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and economic fallout. Need help? Don't hesitate to call on us! (816) 232-4461



[www.saintjoseph.com](https://www.saintjoseph.com)  
(816) 232-4461  
[chamber@saintjoseph.com](mailto:chamber@saintjoseph.com)