



# Connections

**ST. JOSEPH**  
Chamber of Commerce

## The President's Perspective

### The New Guy

This month we welcome Gary Edwards to St. Joseph as our new City Manager. Over 30 years ago I was the new guy. Like Gary, I came from a smaller community in Texas to take the City Manager's job. I had the opportunity to meet Gary during the interview process and found him to be easy to talk to, knowledgeable, experienced and someone who is passionate about making the community he is serving a better place.

The City Manager's position in St. Joseph is a tough job, it was when I arrived, and it still is. While the profession of city management is not for the faint of heart, the job in St. Joseph brings with it certain challenges.

The council/manager form of government from a historical perspective is still relatively new in St. Joseph. The current form of government was created in the early 1980s under a new city charter and, as you might guess, still has its share of doubters. Many remember the strong Mayor form, and some yearn for its return. Truth is the community is well served by a professional City Manager who acts as conduit between Council and City staff that serves to facilitate good policy making on the part of City.

There is an adage in the city management profession that the City Manager must be the "best politician in town." While there is some truth to this, I would offer that the City Manager needs to understand the community, its people, its history and its uniqueness to be effective. Intuitiveness based on knowledge of the community

is just as important as understanding the local politics, especially in St. Joseph.

Residents here want more from their city, but they are at the same time fiscally conservative. While they grumble about things, there are few things they would change. This dichotomy is ever present in most debates in St. Joseph. The challenge is the need for leadership and vision. The City Manager has the opportunity and, I would say the responsibility, to work with City Council, staff and residents to create this vision and provide the administrative leadership to make our city a better place.

Did I say the job is tough? I believe though, that the new guy is up to the task. I am excited that Gary will be our City Manager and look forward to working with him. He will bring new ideas, an outside perspective and a certain calmness and confidence that comes with experience.

So, I hope you will join me in welcoming our new City Manager, Gary Edwards. The honeymoon will be short but take it from an old guy who has been here 30 years, you won't regret the opportunity St. Joseph will afford you.



R. Patt Lilly  
President & CEO

## NEW MEMBERS

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

### Revolutions Lanes & Fun Center

Brian Menini  
6938 King Hill Ave. (04)  
(816) 259-3814  
brian@revolutionslanes.com  
www.revolutionslanes.com

#### Sports

### Biggins Sports Bar & Grill

Tracy Arthur  
408 Hickory St. (01)  
(816) 232-4450  
tracyarthur@hotmail.com

#### Bars & Taverns

### Apple Bus Company

Mark Alexander  
4713 St. Joseph Ave. (05)  
(816) 273-0041  
mark.alexander@applebuscompany.com  
www.applebuscompany.com

#### Transportation

### The Missourian

Joyce Stevenson  
3701 King Hill Ave. (04)  
(816) 273-5099  
Bars & Taverns

### Astraea Consulting

Chelsey Clark  
507 N. Fillmore St., P.O. Box 461  
Maryville, MO 64468  
(816) 313-8881  
connect@astraeaconsultant.com  
www.astraeaconsultant.com

#### Consultants

### Top Notch Roofing Solutions LLC

Rae Brown  
5 Bluebird Drive,  
Agency, MO 64401  
(816) 390-3729  
raebrown@topnotchroofingsolutions.com  
www.topnotchroofingsolutionsllc.com

#### Roofing Contractors

### Guardian Accounting Services, LLC

Stephanie Parris  
11705 E. Brookfield Drive  
Peculiar, MO 64078  
(816) 535-8250  
sparris@guardianaccountingservices.com  
www.guardianaccountingservices.com

#### Accounting Services

### Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

#### Stein & Summers Real Estate

Nicole Holliday  
1007 E. St. Maartens Drive (06)  
(816) 351-2413  
nholliday@bhhsstein.com  
www.nicolehollidayhomes.com

#### Real Estate (Associate)

### VanZino's BBQ

Chad Pinzino  
3702 Frederick Ave., F7 (06)  
(816) 344-9943  
capinzino@yahoo.com  
www.facebook.com/VanZinos

#### Restaurants

### Hazel's Coffee & Roasting Company

Heather Mitchell  
3829 Frederick Ave. (06)  
(816) 390-9079  
hazelscoffeecompany@gmail.com  
www.hazelscoffeeco.com

#### Coffee Shops

### Mike Steilen

4705 Lakeridge Ct. (06)  
(816) 244-9953  
michael.a.steilen@gmail.com  
Civic Member

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jjordan.myhst.com



# November Calendar

For more information, call 816/232-4461. **CREDIT CARD RESERVATIONS CAN BE MADE ONLINE**, [www.saintjoseph.com](http://www.saintjoseph.com)

All members, employees and guests are invited to attend events. Call the Chamber for any dietary needs. Reservations must be cancelled 24 hours in advance to avoid charges. See COVID-19 event guidelines at [saintjoseph.com](http://saintjoseph.com)

## 4, 18/ 12 Circle of Influence

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 and another that meets the second and fourth Thursdays. Contact Natalie Redmond for more information, [redmond@saintjoseph.com](mailto:redmond@saintjoseph.com) or (816) 364-4107. Meetings held at Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center, 1201 Woodbine.

**Nov. 4 & 18 and Nov. 12**  
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Guests Free

## 4 Shop St. Joseph

Presented by the News-Press NOW

This popular program encourages residents to shop locally during the holidays is getting ready to kick off. If you want your business to get some extra business this holiday shopping season, call 364-4107 or e-mail [redmond@saintjoseph.com](mailto:redmond@saintjoseph.com).

**Nov. 4 to Dec. 16**  
go to [www.saintjoseph.com](http://www.saintjoseph.com)  
for more information

## 10 Lunch & Learn

Presented by Butchart Flowers Inc. & Greenhouse

“Get the Most Out of Your Chamber Membership”

Are you new to the Chamber, or a long-time member who wants a refresher on how to make your membership work the hardest it can for your business? Register for this free virtual event to learn from Chamber staff about pointers that will make your membership fulfilling.

**Tuesday, Nov. 10, Free**  
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Virtual

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:  
816/232-4461  
or [www.saintjoseph.com](http://www.saintjoseph.com)

## 12 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, Nov. 12**  
7:15 to 8:30 a.m., \$7

Breakfast provided  
Yellow Frog Graphics  
5602 Corporate Drive

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:  
816/232-4461 or [www.saintjoseph.com](http://www.saintjoseph.com)

## 12 Virtual Economic Development Summit

Presented by RS Electric Corp.

To note that 2020 has been a debacle would be the understatement of the decade. At this point all eyes are on the future. Hear from Dr. Chris Kuehl, managing director of Armada Corporate Intelligence who will provide an economic forecast and strategic guidance in a comical, easy to understand delivery. An economic development update from St. Joseph Chamber staff also will be given about the local economy. Two registrations free for Partnership for Success investors of a minimum \$500 annually.

**Thursday, Nov. 12**  
11:30 a.m., \$15  
Register by Nov. 11

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:  
816/232-4461  
or [www.saintjoseph.com](http://www.saintjoseph.com)

## 19 BUSINESS after HOURS

Presented by Altec Industries, Inc.

Get ready for the holidays with this after hours networking event at Butchart Flowers. Bring your business cards and meet your next client or contact.

**Thursday, Nov. 19**  
5 to 7 p.m., Free

Butchart Flowers Inc. & Greenhouse  
3321 S. Belt Highway

## 23 Virtual Women's Leadership Group

Presented by Garden Gate

Co-sponsored with Northwest Missouri State University's Small Business Development Center, each month has a different featured topic for women business owners, managers and employees.

**Monday, Nov. 23**  
Noon to 1 p.m., Free

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:  
816/232-4461 or [www.saintjoseph.com](http://www.saintjoseph.com)

## 24 VIRTUAL FARM CITY BREAKFAST

Presented by LifeLine Foods

This popular event recognizes the farmer/producer and the importance of agribusiness to the area economy. Proceeds benefit Agriculture Future of America (AFA) scholarships.

**Tuesday, Nov. 24**  
8:30 a.m., Free

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:  
816/232-4461 or [www.saintjoseph.com](http://www.saintjoseph.com)

**TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOUR OPPORTUNITY!**

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