



Connections

ST. JOSEPH Chamber of Commerce

The President's Perspective

Thanks, Jack!

Earlier in February, I learned of the passing of John P. Barclay, Jr., past Chairman and CEO of Wire Rope Corporation of America, which at the time was headquartered in St. Joseph. Most of us called him Jack, as he preferred to be called. When I came to St. Joseph in 1990 as City Manager, I had an opportunity to meet Jack. He was a bit of a legend in local business circles and everyone seemed to have a story to tell about interacting with him.

He was tough, opinionated and had a sharp tongue toward those he thought deserved it. He was also smart, articulate and had a good sense of humor. From time to time, he would call and tell me what I and the City were doing wrong and explain what I needed to do to fix the problem. I always enjoyed those calls because Jack would always ask how I was doing and was sincere in his interest that he wanted me and the City to be successful.

Then there was the "Franchise Tax War" in the early 1990s. The City had decided to consider an increase to the franchise tax on utilities that, as you might guess, would cost many of our largest employers a significant amount of money. Jack took exception and mounted a campaign to fight City Hall. Money was raised, attorneys hired, and condemnation of the City's actions was swift. In the end, a treaty was offered with both sides not achieving what they really wanted; thus, it was declared a fair ending to the War. I always felt it was a bit of a bitter pill for Jack to swallow, but it

never affected our relationship.

As I approached the end of my sixth year as City Manager, Jack gave me a call one day and asked me to consider becoming President/CEO of the Chamber. He said there was no one else in his mind to consider, plus he felt I knew the community. Did I mention he could be persuasive? Thus, began my new career as a Chamber executive and my unexpected 30-year stay in St. Joseph.



R. Patt Lilly
President & CEO

What I appreciated most about Jack is that he could disagree and argue with you one day, but the next day offer to assist with solving a problem or supporting the community through some initiative. Yes, he could be tough to deal with, but he was also a pragmatist. He did not get caught up in personalities or ideologies. He kept his focus on the result, an outcome he could embrace to move his business and the community forward. I would offer we could use a little more pragmatism in this country.

I will miss Jack. He was one of a kind! Thanks, Jack, for the education and the opportunity.

Keep up with the Chamber

Sign up for text messages!

Text Chamber to 474747

ST. JOSEPH Chamber of Commerce

Be a Champion of Commerce

**SHOP LOCAL
DECIDE LOCAL**

CHAMPIONS of commerce

championsofcommerce.com



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 -- Welcomes -- Website
To see tools: uncommonlife.saintjoseph.com/hr

Share the website for potential residents: uncommonlife.info



March Calendar

For more information, call 816/232-4461. **CREDIT CARD RESERVATIONS CAN BE MADE ONLINE**, 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

2-11 St. Joseph Restaurant Week

Presented by John Joe Insurance

March 2-11
STJrestaurantweek.com

The Chamber and Joe Town Fun are partnering to bring St. Joseph its second annual Restaurant Week. Go to STJrestaurantweek.com to see what restaurants are participating, offering special menus and carry-out/delivery options. Be a Champion of Commerce and support our local restaurants this week (and always).

Circle of Influence

3/17,
11/25

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/specialty 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 or (816) 364-4107. Meetings held at Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center, 1201 Woodbine.

March 3 & 17 and March 11 & 25
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Guests Free

DIPLOMATS CLUB Breakfast

Presented by CLA

11

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, March 11
7:15 a.m., \$7

Breakfast provided
Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center
1201 N. Woodbine Road
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:
816/232-4461 or www.saintjoseph.com

Lunch & Learn Seminar

Lunch by McAlister's Deli

16

Presented by Butchart Flowers Inc. & Greenhouse

Done with 2020? Enter 2021 understanding workplace accommodations and legalities. The speaker will be Nancy Potter Lyle with Murphy, Taylor, Siemens & Elliott P.C. This Lunch & Learn is hosted by the Chamber and Human Resources Management Association of Northwest Missouri. Choose in person (limited to 20 people) or virtual. If you choose virtual, you'll get a \$10 gift card for lunch.

Tuesday, March 16
\$10, lunch included
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:
816/232-4461
or www.saintjoseph.com

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Virtual Public Affairs Coffee

Presented by Farmers State Bank

This Public Affairs Coffee will feature Mayor Bill McMurray, who will give his State of the City address. Public Affairs Coffee events feature issues involving social, economic, governmental, legislative and corporate activities that are of concern to Chamber members and the business community.

Wednesday, March 17
10 a.m., Free

Watch on Facebook Live
facebook.com/saintjosephchamber

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BUSINESS after HOURS

Presented by Altec Industries, Inc.

Bring your business cards and meet your next client or customer at this monthly event. Food and drinks provided.

Thursday, March 18
5 to 7 p.m., Free

SJC Marketing
203 N. 36th St.

29

Virtual Women's Leadership Group

Presented by Human Resource Management Association of Northwest Missouri

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.

This month hear from Chastity Stemmons, Marketplace Minister, as she speaks about "Faith + Business = Marketplace Success!" This powerful presentation will inspire attendees to create their own path in life and business. It will teach the importance of having a business with long-lasting impact, prosperity and eternal benefits.

Monday, March 29
Noon to 1 p.m., Free

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:
816/232-4461 or
www.saintjoseph.com

your key to real estate



Are you thinking about selling and taking advantage of the great interest rates before they go up? Spring is a great time to list and sell your home.

Find out how much your house would sell for!

Use this coupon for:

A Free Comparative Market Analysis from Tammy O'Meara-Chambers of Top Property Realty, LLC

\$50 off a Pre-Sale Home Inspection Walkthrough and Punch List from Brightview Home Inspections (normally \$100)

Be ready to sell when you hit the market!

