

September 2021

Connecting the Chamber with members in a monthly news source.



Connections

ST. JOSEPH
Chamber of Commerce

The President's Perspective

It Takes a Community

For most of my career, I have been engaged in addressing challenges in communities I call home. Some challenges tend to be straight forward as there is wide-spread agreement for what the outcomes should be, like improving streets or attracting good-paying jobs. Other challenges are more complex, such as neighborhood redevelopment or deciding how the School District should proceed to create an action plan for its future. When there is no agreement on desired outcomes, there is a need for engagement of and input from the community.

The most recent defeat of the proposed School District bond issue has brought us to a point where we must ask, what is the future of the St. Joseph School District? Where are we going and how are we to get there? It's time to ask the residents of St. Joseph, what are the outcomes they wish to see? These are big questions that cannot be answered by a few, no matter how well meaning they may be. We need a process for community engagement and input that seeks opinions, ideas and possible solutions with the goal of establishing a plan for the District's future.

In the months ahead you will be hearing about a community-led planning process to engage residents in discussions that will focus on improving the quality of education in St. Joseph. While the effort will be facilitated by a group of consultants it will be led by interested residents. It will involve multiple meetings discussing topics that lead us to decisions on how we improve educational outcomes of

students. While the condition of existing buildings, the potential for school closures and building new schools may be part of the discussion, these topics will only relate to how each impacts and improves education in St. Joseph. The goal is to have a plan of action that improves the quality of education in St. Joseph.



R. Patt Lilly
President & CEO

The Chamber of Commerce with the assistance of Mosaic Life Care will pay for the cost of the consultants and the development of the plan. Why us? Because improving educational outcomes and having a successful School District is the most important local issue facing St. Joseph employers. I would offer that businesses cannot be successful and, for that matter, our community cannot be successful without a strong, high-achieving School District. I would also add that the District cannot be successful without the support of the community. It is really that simple.

The challenges facing the St. Joseph School District requires a community solution. It starts with asking residents what they want. The community engagement process will provide us the opportunity, now we must commit to being part of the solution. It takes a community!



ST. JOSEPH
Chamber of Commerce

Know a business that should be a Chamber member?

Ask them to join today!
saintjoseph.com/join

**Agent Jo
Hire MORE
Than A Sign!**



17+ years of experience

Earned 7 additional educational designations/certifications such as ABR, CRS, GRI, SFR, SRS, MRE and ePro!

Transaction plus education working for you!

Don't just hire someone who passed a test and got a piece of paper.

Hire EXPERIENCE! Hire MORE than a sign.



**Call or text 816-617-4412
and visit AgentJo.com to search
ALL listings from ALL companies.**

NEW MEMBERS

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

Sherri's Kitchen & Bath

Sherri Phillips
3421 Gene Field Road (06)
(816) 259-5175
sherri@sherriskitchens.com
www.sherriskitchens.com
Home Improvements

Guga Technology Solutions LLC

Abdul Guga
3801 Oakland Ave. Ste. 109A (06)
(816) 722-4062
support@gts.consulting
www.gts.consulting
Technology

Armstrong's Heating & Cooling

Bart Armstrong
813 S. Seventh St. (01)
(816) 261-7830
armstrongshvac@yahoo.com
www.armstrongshvac.com
Heating & Cooling Contractors

Marsh & McLennan Agency

Duane Moppin
7015 College Blvd. Ste. 400,
Overland Park, KS 66211
(913) 645-9760
duane.moppin@marshmma.com
www.mmaretirement.com
Employee Benefits



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

September 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.

-
- 1** **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. The keynote speaker will be Scott Stump, FFA Executive Director.
Wednesday, Sept. 1
7 to 9 a.m., \$12
Word of Life Church
3902 N. Riverside Road
Tickets available at the Chamber or online
-
- 1, 15, 9, 23** **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 or (816) 364-4107. Meetings held at Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center, 1201 Woodbine.
Sept. 1 & 15 and Sept. 9 & 23
11:30 a.m. to 1p.m., Guests Free
-
- 9** **DIPLOMATS CLUB Breakfast**
Presented by CLA
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, Sept. 9
7:15 a.m., \$7
Breakfast provided
St. Jo Frontier Casino
777 Winners Circle
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:
816/232-4461 or www.saintjoseph.com
-
- 9** **Parties on the Parkway**
Presented by Nodaway Valley Bank
It's Parties on the Parkway time! Bring your lawn chairs and spread out along the Parkway while listening to some great local music. Phil Vandel will perform country hits.
Thursday, Sept. 9
5 to 8 p.m., Free
Remington Nature Center
1502 McArthur Drive
Rain Date Sept. 16
-
- 14** **Lunch & Learn Seminar**
Presented by Butchart Flowers Inc. & Greenhouse
Learn how to use storytelling as a business tool from one of St. Joseph's most well-known storyteller, Will Stuck. He's an edu-tainer, speaker and workshop presenter.
Lunch by Marek's Catering & Delicatessen
Tuesday, Sept. 14
\$10, lunch included
11:30 a.m. to 1p.m.
In person or virtual
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:
816/232-4461
or www.saintjoseph.com
-
- 23** **Dept. of Econ Dev. Small Business Event**
The Missouri Department of Economic Development and the Chamber will co-host a listening session related to small businesses. The DED and the Governor's Show Me Strong Recovery Task Force is hosting events across the state and wants to hear from St. Joseph businesses. Director Rob Dixon will deliver some remarks on the small business landscape and facilitate a panel discussion before the audience breaks into smaller groups to discuss specific challenges and solutions.
Thursday, Sept. 23
Free
1 to 3 p.m.
The Metropolitan
107 S. Sixth St.
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:
816/232-4461
or www.saintjoseph.com
-
- 23** **BUSINESS after HOURS**
Presented by Altec Industries, Inc.
Bring your business cards & meet your next client at this monthly event. Food and drinks provided.
Thursday, Sept. 23
Free
5 to 7 p.m.
Albrecht-Kemper Museum of Art
2818 Frederick Ave.
-
- 27** **Special 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 topic and speaker. This month we'll partner with the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) for "How to Lead the Way to Picture Perfect Change." This presentation has been previously approved for SHRM & HCRI Business credit hours. Jonathan Michael Bowman, J.D., will be the presenter. \$10, includes lunch for Chamber and SHRM members and \$20 for non-members.
Monday, Sept. 27
Noon to 1 p.m., \$10
Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center, 1201 N. Woodbine Road
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:
816/232-4461
or www.saintjoseph.com
-
- 29** **THE CHAMBER CLASSIC**
Presented by Al J. Mueller Construction Co. and Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation
Join us for the annual Chamber Classic Golf Tournament. The \$90 per person cost includes green fees, cart, lunch, refreshments, team photo, goodie bag, prizes and more! The format is a four-player scramble. Volunteers and donations needed as well. Contact Natalie Redmond to register, volunteer or donate at redmond@saintjoseph.com or (816) 364-4107.
Wednesday, Sept. 29
10 a.m. shotgun start
\$90 per player
St. Joseph Country Club
50 Ridgeland Road
Limited spots available.
-