

January 2025

Connecting the Chamber with members in a monthly news source.



ST. JOSEPH Chamber of Commerce

Connections

The President's Perspective

A Year of Growth and Opportunity

As we reflect on another remarkable year, we are proud to share the many successes that have defined our Chamber of Commerce in 2024. From welcoming over 100 new members to celebrating more than 50 ribbon-cutting ceremonies, this year has been a testament to the strength, resilience, and collaborative spirit of our business community.

A Strong Year for Membership

This year, we welcomed over 100 new members into our Chamber family. Each new member brings unique strengths, talents, and ideas, contributing to a more vibrant and diverse local economy. From small startups to large corporations, our Chamber continues to grow in both size and influence, providing members with essential resources, networking opportunities, and a platform for advocacy.

We are incredibly grateful for the trust and commitment these businesses have shown in our Chamber's mission, and we look forward to supporting them as they thrive in the year ahead.

I don't think a week goes by without an event for Chamber members to attend. From learning opportunities like Lunch and Learns and Public Affairs Coffees, to networking functions and community events, there's always something happening for businesses to benefit from.

Driving Economic Development

Last year was one of economic growth and opportunity. Through strategic partnerships and targeted efforts, our Chamber has played a pivotal role in fostering an environment where businesses can flourish. We have worked closely with local government agencies, economic development partners,

and private sector leaders to attract new investment, create jobs, and drive innovation. In 2024, 92 new jobs were created and almost \$193 million was invested by St. Joseph companies. Look for more details in the 2024 Annual Report.



Natalie Hawn
President & CEO

Workforce Development: Building a Strong Talent Pipeline

The demand for skilled workers continues to grow, and our Chamber has remained steadfast in its commitment to workforce development. We continued our tried-and-true programs like the My Success Event and Manufacturing Day, but were also happy to see some major accomplishments come to fruition. The opening of the Houlne Center for Convergent Technology and the two additions at Hillyard Technical Center (for the health and manufacturing fields).

Looking Ahead

As we begin 2025, we are excited about the future. We plan to continue our work in strategic community initiatives with our partners, including improving workforce housing options, developing the Felix Street Market and furthering the work conducted in the Imagine St. Joseph 2040 Plan.

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to all of our members, partners, and supporters for your dedication to our Chamber and the business community. Together, we are building a strong, thriving St. Joseph, and we can't wait to see what we will accomplish in the year ahead!

NEW MEMBERS

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

Affordable Avenue Auto
Krista Letzig

2128 St. Joseph Ave. (05)
(816) 273-5084

affordableavenueautolc@gmail.com
affordableavenueauto.com

Automobile Dealers

Southern Roots Event Hall
Steve Holland

239 Illinois Ave. (04)
(816) 721-1123

239@gmail.com

Event Centers/Special Events

Southside Flea Market
Q Lopez

3500 S. 22nd St. (03)
(816) 341-0024

qlopez@benvictops.com

www.southsideflea.us

Flea Markets

Cornelius Heavy Wrecker
Shawn Polachek

723 S. Eighth St. (01)
(816) 402-2216

corneliusheavywrecker@gmail.com
www.corneliuswrecker.com

Towing Service

Pop's Place
Steve Holland

238 Illinois Ave. (04)
(816) 238-3344

popsplace2002@yahoo.com

Restaurants

Riverbend Life Strategies
Harriet Gordon

1009 W. Maartens Drive (06)
(816) 689-9843

harriet@riverbendls.com

www.riverbendls.com

Mental Health Services

Cornelius Wrecking LLC
Shawn Polachek

723 S. Eighth St. (01)
(816) 557-1150

corneliuswrecking@gmail.com
www.corneliuswrecking.com

Wrecking Contractors

AgentRoc Real Estate Team
- Keller Williams

Raquel Hopper

1601 S.E. Moore Road (07)
(816) 390-3964

roc.sells@kw.com

www.agentroc.com

Real Estate (Associate)

**LOCAL
VIBES
& BIG
WINS**



**ST JO
FRONTIER
CASINO**
ST. JOSEPH, MISSOURI

777 Winners Circle
St. Joseph, MO 64505

StJoFrontierCasino.com
(800) 888-2946

January Calendar

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

9

DIPLOMATS CLUB Breakfast

Presented by Altec Industries, Inc., John Joe Insurance & Rogers Pharmacy
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! This month the Dips will help set up the Annual Banquet decorations at the Civic Arena.

Thursday, Jan. 9
7:15 a.m., Free

Breakfast provided
Civic Arena
100 N. Fourth St.

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

9, 15,
29

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. (Holidays affect this schedule.) Contact Tony Luke for more information, luke@saintjoseph.com or (816) 364-4101. Meetings held at Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center, 1201 Woodbine.

Jan. 9 & 23 and Jan. 15
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Guests Free

11

Annual Banquet

Presented by Commerce Bank

Join us for the 105th Chamber Annual Banquet, "Denim & Diamonds." Doors open at 6 p.m., with dinner at 7 p.m. Entertainment will be from Dirty Bourbon Band. Join us for the largest gala of the year in St. Joseph, and the Chamber's annual meeting, where we recognize retiring board members, hardworking volunteers and longtime members.

Saturday, Jan. 11
6 p.m., \$75 or \$85 after Jan. 7

Dinner provided
Civic Arena
100 N. Fourth St.

14

Lunch & Learn Seminar

Presented by Altec Industries, Inc.

Build a Tribe That Buys, Believes, and Advocates for Your Brand

In a noisy, competitive world, building a loyal customer base isn't just nice, it's survival.

The businesses that thrive aren't chasing every sale, they're creating tribes of loyal customers who believe in what they do, share it with their friends, and come back for more. In this lunch and learn, you'll discover how to define the right tribe for your business and build a community of raving fans. You'll leave with actionable strategies to turn buyers into believers and create sustainable growth that feels as good as it looks on the balance sheet. Chaz Robbins, founder and CEO of Hope Story Media, will be the guest speaker.

*Lunch by
Marek's Catering
& Delicatessen*

Tuesday, Jan. 14
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., \$12

St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce
3003 Frederick Ave.

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

23

BUSINESS after HOURS

Presented by Altec Industries, Inc.

Don't miss the first Business After Hours of the year! Get your year off to the right start and make some new business connections. Bring your business cards!

Thursday, Jan. 23
5 to 7 p.m., Free

Rolling Hills Auto Plaza
1617 Cross St.

27

Women's Leadership Group

Presented by Altec Industries, Inc. BMS Logistics Inc., Candlewood Suites, Human Resource Management Association of Northwest Missouri, RitePack, Inc., Sealed Air Corporation, Top Property Realty

Each month the Chamber and Northwest Missouri State University's Small Business Development Center bring business topics to light that are important to women. This month learn about personal branding.

Monday, Jan. 27
Noon to 1 p.m., Free
Bring your own lunch

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

Know a business that should be a Chamber member?

Ask them to join today!

Contact luke@saintjoseph.com
or send them to our website:
saintjoseph.com

MEMBERS

only!

Update contact information

Pay invoices

Access exclusive content

Participate in surveys

Upload images to your online listing

View and print referral reports

Take part in the Member-to-Member Discount Program

Have more control of your membership

Visit saintjoseph.com and click on MEMBERS ONLY to log in.

Contact the Chamber at (816) 364-4103 or greiner@saintjoseph.com for help.