

June 2025

Connecting the Chamber with
members in a monthly news source.



ST. JOSEPH
Chamber of Commerce

Connections

The President's Perspective

Planting Seeds of Community Growth

As we look toward building a more resilient and prosperous local economy, we must recognize one of the most powerful tools at our disposal: our youth. Internships and early employment opportunities are more than just résumé-builders for students—they are essential drivers of economic vitality and long-term workforce development in our community.

When a high school student lands a part-time job or a college intern contributes to a local business project, something remarkable happens: they begin to understand the value of work, responsibility, and community. These early experiences help young people develop soft skills like communication, time management, and teamwork—skills that will shape them into capable professionals, no matter where they go.

For businesses, internships and youth employment provide more than an extra set of hands. They offer fresh perspectives, foster mentorship, and help cultivate a pipeline of talent that is homegrown and invested in the future of our region. Employers who open their doors to young workers are investing not only in the next generation but also in their own future success.

We recently celebrated as 37 students signed on to do their apprenticeships in high demand fields as a part of the NWMO Regional Apprenticeship Program through Hillyard Technical Center, the St. Joseph School District and many employers. And this summer the Chamber will host multiple programs for visiting interns with our major employers, showing them why St. Joseph is not only a great

place to work, but also a great place to live.

It's also worth noting the economic ripple effects. When young people are earning, even modestly, they're spending—supporting local restaurants, shops, and services. More importantly, they're learning that a meaningful and rewarding career can be built right here in our region, which is crucial for talent retention.

That's why the Chamber continues to support workforce development programs that connect students to real-world experience. Whether through job shadowing, internship coordination, or collaboration with educational institutions, we're working to create more pathways for young people to contribute to and thrive in our local economy.

To the businesses already offering internships and hiring young workers—thank you. To those considering it—now is the time. Together, we can shape a community where opportunity is visible, accessible, and grounded in the values of hard work and mentorship.

Let's invest in the future—one student, one job, one opportunity at a time.



Natalie Hawn
President & CEO

NEW MEMBERS

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

Camp Quality Northwest Missouri

Kolby Davidson
1325 Village Drive (06)
(816) 232-2267
nwmo@campqualityusa.org
www.campqualityusa.org

Charitable Organizations

John Jackson Plumbing LLC

Lennie Jackson
18745 County Road 390 (05)
(816) 383-4459
johnandlennie@bbwi.net

Underground Utility Contractor

Northern Lights

Nikki Grom
5810 State Hwy K, Unit B (05)
(816) 233-8538
northernlights291@outlook.com
www.barnesroofingandguttering.com

Decorators

Refined Beauty

Dakota Stufflebean
1107 N. 26th St. (06)
(816) 205-7570
refinedbeauty25@gmail.com
Beauty Salons & Services

aNu Aesthetics and Optimal Wellness

Cristyn Watkins, M.D.
10090 NW Prairie View Road
(816) 359-3310
cristyn.watkins@anuaesthetics.com
www.anuaesthetics.com
Health Services

B&B Runway Cafe

Jillian Parisoff
100 NW Rosecrans Road (03)
(816) 344-1146
jillianparisoff@gmail.com

Restaurants

Tienda La Estrella

Lucy Timmerman
920 S. 22nd St. (06)
(816) 238-4930

Grocers

CR BBQ and Catering

Crystal Polsgrove
302 N. Sixth St.,
Savannah, MO 64485
(816) 734-6059
crbbqandcatering@gmail.com

Catering

Next Level Detailing LLC

Levi Sill
2810 N. Belt Highway (06)
(816) 244-3303
nextlevelstjoe@gmail.com
www.detailingnextlevel.org

Automobile Parts, Supplies & Service

ARC Construction Group

Rico Almaraz
3220 Independence Ave.,
Kansas City, MO 64124
(816) 529-6670
arc@awesomeprojects.com

General Contractors

Tom Richmond

3210 Harbor View Drive (06)
(816) 341-9278
tomgrichmond@outlook.com

Civic Membership

AICE, LLC

Brian Juhl
4517 Stacey Way Court (05)
(913) 238-3488
brian@aice.cc
www.aice.cc

Software Services

Shakespeare Chateau Guild

Lisa Rock
809 Hall St. (01)
(816) 232-2667

Property Maintenance

Jane Graves

1919 N. 29th St. (06)
(816) 351-3601
janegraves60@gmail.com

Civic Membership

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

June Calendar

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

4, 18
&
12, 26

Circle of Influence

June 4 & 18 and June 12 & 26
11:30 a.m. to 1p.m., Guests Free

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. (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 N. Woodbine Road.

10

Lunch & Learn Seminar

*Lunch by
Marek's Catering & Delicatessen*

Presented by Altec Industries, Inc.

Topic: The Power of Volunteerism in Business
Kylee Strough from the United Way will explore how volunteerism can strengthen your business, build community connections, and foster a purpose-driven workplace culture. In today's competitive environment, businesses that prioritize social responsibility stand out. During this Lunch & Learn, we'll discuss the impact of volunteerism on employee engagement and retention; how giving back can enhance your brand reputation, creative ways businesses of all sizes can get involved and local opportunities to make a difference.

Tuesday, June 10
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

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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

This month Women's Leadership Group will host "Drinks for Dogs (and Cats)." Join them at Fantastic Fido's, where tents will be set up outside and you can enjoy food and drinks and meet some furry friends. The only cost is a donation of cash or products to the Friends of the Animal Shelter.

Tuesday, June 10
5 to 7 p.m., Free
Fantastic Fido's
6108 N. Belt Highway

12

DIPLOMATS CLUB Breakfast

Presented by Altec Industries, Inc., Nodaway Valley Bank & 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!

Thursday, June 12
7:15 a.m., \$10
Breakfast provided
Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center
1201 N. Woodbine Road

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

12

PARTIES on the PARKWAY

Presented by Nodaway Valley Bank

Bring your lawn chairs and blankets and spread out along the Parkway while listening to some great music. Enjoy the Jason and Brandon Duo perform a variety of pop songs you can sing along to. Food, treats and drink vendors will be available. No coolers allowed. A free balloon artist is available for the kids! Bring friends, family and pets and enjoy the beautiful parkway.

Thursday, June 12
5 to 8 p.m., Free
S.W. Parkway & King Hill Drive
Rain date: June 19

26

Public Affairs Coffee

Presented by Altec Industries, Inc.

Join us for a wrap-up of the Missouri legislative session. Our local elected delegation will all be invited to speak to give us their opinion on the highs and lows and what's left to accomplish in the next term.

Thursday, June 26
7:30 to 8:30 a.m., \$15
Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center
1201 N. Woodbine Road

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

26

BUSINESS after HOURS

Presented by Altec Industries, Inc.

Don't miss this fun Business After Hours. Have some food and drinks and maybe meet your next business connection. Bring your business cards!

Thursday, June 26
5 to 7 p.m., Free
Belt Entertainment
210 N. Belt Highway

As summer approaches for many, it signals the beginning of "daisy season." Now, while many of us enjoy these delicious cocktails all year long, we thought this would be the perfect time to dive into margarita mixology, La Mesa style!



LOOKING FOR A WAY TO SPICE UP YOUR NEXT BUSINESS LUNCH EVENT OR FAMILY GATHERING?

La Mesa Mexican Restaurants offer catering services for St. Joe and surrounding areas! Whether you're hosting a business or family event, we can handle your catering needs with Mexican Specialties that will fit your party size and budget too!

So, the next time you're thinking catering, think La Mesa. We guarantee your group will be saying, "Muy Bien."

