

# CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

CONNECTING THE CHAMBER WITH MEMBERS IN A MONTHLY NEWS SOURCE

CONNECTIONS

## INTERVIEW WITH THE PRESIDENT

### **What are your thoughts about the federal Economic Stimulus Package?**

There are many positive components of the federal Stimulus Package that are likely to provide a much-needed boost to the economy and we are doing everything possible to obtain a proportionate share for St. Joseph.

The prevailing "sense of fear" among individual consumers is one of the greatest problems facing our economy, as too many people are holding back on major purchases. Consumers must re-engage in normal purchasing behavior in order to get the manufacturing sector moving again.

However, one of my concerns has to do with the "bailouts" for some of the largest banks and corporations like AIG, which actually reward and encourage poor management practices. Underwriting reckless behavior of a select few businesses that are deemed to be "too big to fail" only shifts the risk (and fear factor) to the individual taxpayer. Big government has now set a precedent of rewarding ineffective and reckless management practices, taking us one step closer to the slippery-slope of socialism.

### **Some of the nation's largest banks have received bailouts. Is this fair to smaller banks?**

No. The vast majority of smaller community banks have maintained prudent credit standards and are still healthy, but are now being largely ignored by federal policy makers.

While we are not advocating irresponsible lending practices, the Feds could do more to encourage local banks to extend more credit responsibly to small businesses. SBA loan programs already in place could be enhanced and further implemented to improve access to credit for small businesses.

As I said in my testimony to the U.S. House Small Business Committee in January, this federal program could

further insulate local lenders so they can be more aggressive and achieve a higher level of local entrepreneurial activity during this deep recession. This is so important because most of our employment growth will come from the small business sector as we move forward.

### **What do you think of how the Stimulus Package ended up after it made its way through the Legislature?**

Not enough funds were provided for local infrastructure and local schools, where this community needed it the most. Funding was eliminated to replace some of our nation's oldest schools.

That makes it all the more important for St. Joseph voters to approve the continuation of the 63-cent operating levy and addition of the 22-cent bond to replace two of our 100-year-old schools and expand a third school.

By creating hundreds of construction jobs as well as attracting more families and employers, I see this as an excellent local economic stimulus plan.

I urge voters to "Vote Yes Twice" on April 7.

### **Once the economy begins to recover, what do you see as the next major issue facing the business sector and President Obama's administration?**

Many problems with our nation's healthcare system must be addressed.

Every day more people are becoming uninsured and rates are sky-rocketing for the insured. The economy cannot fully recover until new strategies are adopted to make health insurance affordable without compromising access to and quality of healthcare services.

We are advocating private-sector solutions driven by new public policies, but we do not support nationalized healthcare.



Ted Allison, CED  
President & CEO

## Did you know?

You may have recently spent hours watching "March Madness," but, did you know one of St. Joseph's own companies played an important early role in the sport?

When one of N.S. Hillyard's sons asked him to sponsor a basketball team, he did more than just pay for the uniforms.

According to the Hillyard web site, Mr. Hillyard felt the slippery oil dressings used on early wood gym floors were unsafe. In 1920, he erected a new plant and office building in St. Joseph that then housed the largest wood gymnasium floor west of the Mississippi River. He used it as a test site to perfect new wood gym seals and finishes.

The Hillyard basketball team became the national A.A.U. champions for two years straight and earned Hillyard a special exhibit in the Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Mass.

**HILLYARD**  
THE CLEANING RESOURCE®



## Chuck Morris opens American Family office

Members of the St. Joseph Area Chamber of Commerce Diplomats Club joined Chuck Morris and his employees as they celebrated the opening of his office on March 3. The Diplomats Club presented him with the First Dollar Profit Award. The office is located at 3001 Frederick Ave. Mr. Morris' wife and children attended and watched him cut the ribbon to ceremonially open his office.

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**CHAMBER NIGHT AT THE BULLRIDES PRE-RIDE PARTY**

Join us for this networking event, which includes a Cash Bar with complimentary hors d'ouerves. After the party, Chamber members can use their discounted tickets and sit in a reserved section to watch the bullriding at the Civic Arena, which starts at 8 p.m. Discounted tickets for Chamber members will be \$11 plus a \$3 convenience/facility fee. Please contact the Chamber to purchase tickets at the reduced rate.

**Friday, April 3**  
**5 to 7 p.m., Free**  
 Boudreaux's Louisiana Seafood & Steaks  
 224 N. Fourth St.

09

**DIPLOMATS CLUB Breakfast**  
**Presented by Heartland Health**

**Thursday, April 9**  
**7:15 to 8:30 a.m., \$5**  
 Rolling Hills Auto Plaza  
 1607 N. Belt Highway  
**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:**  
 816/232-4461 or www.saintjoseph.com

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**YEN Meeting**  
**Presented by International Paper**

The Young Executives Network provides professional development opportunities through social and educational programs to create leaders that are an asset to our community.

**Tuesday, April 14**  
**7:30 to 9 a.m.**  
 Chamber of Commerce  
 3003 Frederick Ave.

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**Lunch & Learn**  
**Box Lunch Seminar**

*Lunch Catered  
 by Whiskey Creek*

Officials from Community Action Partnership will delve into the area of poverty. They will discuss how job loss and the economic crisis is affecting employees and the Missouri Career Center.

**Tuesday, April 14**  
**11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., \$10**  
 Chamber of Commerce  
 3003 Frederick Ave.  
**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:**  
 816/232-4461 or www.saintjoseph.com

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**New Member Luncheon**  
**Presented by Luna's Fine Dining**

Join other new members, Chamber staff and Board members for introductions and an orientation to the Chamber's programs and services.

**Thursday, April 16**  
**11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., Free**  
 Chamber of Commerce  
 3003 Frederick Ave.  
**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:**  
 816/232-4461 or www.saintjoseph.com

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**ST. JOE RISING**  
**Presented by Bartlett & West**  
**Bronze Sponsor: KCP&L**

Buchanan County Commissioners will give a "Buchanan County Update" at this St. Joe Rising. The event is a quarterly networking program where professionals gather to enjoy breakfast and receive updates from community leaders.

**Friday, April 17**  
**7:30 to 8:30 a.m.**  
**\$10, breakfast included**  
 Ramada Inn  
 4016 Frederick Ave.  
**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:**  
 816/232-4461 or www.saintjoseph.com

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**BUSINESS before HOURS**  
**Presented by Altec**

This networking event is offered at a different Chamber business each month. Attend six or more mixers to get your name in a special door prize drawing at our 2009 Holiday Party.

**Tuesday, April 21**  
**7:30 to 9 a.m., FREE**  
 Country Kitchen, 4229 Frederick Ave.

30

**Business Seminar**

**Gold Sponsors: K-Jo 105.5, KQ2**

**Silver Sponsors: Small Business Development Center, B.J. Office Products**

Kathleen Randall, of Randall Resources, will teach those who attend this year's Business Seminar how to speak a customer's language. Her presentation, "Customer Service Excellence: Keep Them Coming and Calling Back!" will provide valuable insight, practical tools and effective strategies for anyone who works with customers. The seminar costs \$49 for the first person and then \$35 for each additional member from the same company. Breakfast is included.

**Thursday, April 30**  
**8 a.m. to noon**  
 Fulkerson Center  
 Missouri Western State University  
 4525 Downs Drive

**Would you miss this?**

The Chamber is interested in what members think of the Connections monthly newsletter.

Would you prefer an e-newsletter delivered through e-mail, or do you enjoy the printed version?

Please let Natalie Leonard-Redmond know your response by phone, 364-4107; e-mail, leonard@saintjoseph.com; or by mail, 3003 Frederick Ave., St. Joseph, MO 64506