

# CHAMBER Connections

CONNECTING THE  
CHAMBER WITH  
MEMBERS IN A  
MONTHLY NEWS  
SOURCE

## INTERVIEW WITH THE PRESIDENT

**There is a single-issue ballot in the June 7 election. Why is it important for residents to get out and vote?**

"The Hotel/Motel Tax is very important to the development of St. Joseph's downtown, and the city's overall quality of life. The approval of the tax increase would do a lot of good for our city, without costing the residents much, if anything, out of their pockets. The majority of the Hotel/Motel Tax is paid by out-of-town visitors. It could create \$10 million in the next 20 years."

**How does the city's current Hotel/Motel Tax compare to other cities?**

"It is currently at 3 percent, which is much lower than other Missouri cities. If the increase is approved, it would raise to 6 percent, which would still be lower than Kansas City, St. Louis, Jefferson City and Independence. What's more important is that our low 3 percent rate doesn't help attract conventions and visitors, but the funds created by the tax increase would help St. Joseph revitalize our riverfront area and create an events center

downtown that would attract more visitors."

**What do some of our larger employers think about the tax increase?**

"Many of our larger employers have commented to us that they'd like a facility to accommodate company conferences and sales meetings. In addition to physically being able to have larger conferences, employers know that improving the riverfront and downtown could have great effects for its employees' quality of life. It could help attract employees to live here, or give them a reason to stay. Employers in cities with vibrant downtowns and riverfronts have employees that feel like they have something to do when they are off work, and that can help lead to happy employees."



Ted Allison, CEcD  
President & CEO

## Big Chamber Crowd Listens to 'World's Second-Best Mayor'

About 230 Chamber members attended the Spring Chairman's Luncheon to hear Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett.



## NEW MEMBERS

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

### JLG Enterprise LLC

Jamie L. Grayson  
116 Lakeview Drive,  
Plattsburg, MO 64477  
(888) 950-5474  
jamiegrayson@jamiegrayson.com  
www.jamiegrayson.com  
**MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER/  
CONSULTANT**

### Devcon Security Services

Marian Collins  
7915 Bond, Lenexa, KS 66214  
(913) 907-4942  
mcollins@devcon-security.com  
www.devcon-security.com  
**SECURITY**

### Bath & Kitchen Encounters of St. Joseph, Inc.

Charity Loftis  
901 Jules St. (01)  
(816) 232-7633  
bakestjoe@hotmail.com  
**HOME FURNISHINGS**

### Panera Bread

Brian Cole  
8300 Mission Road  
Prairie Village, KS 66206  
(816) 364-3030  
brian.cole@panerakansas.com  
www.panera-kansas.com  
**CATERING**

### Chiropractic Healing & Restoration LLC

Joshua Middendorf  
1512 S. 27th St. (07)  
(816) 232-9437  
drmiddedc@yahoo.com  
chiropractichealingandrestoration.com  
**CHIROPRACTORS**

### Community Foundation of Northwest Missouri

Stacey Halfery  
1014 W. St. Maartens Drive (06)  
(816) 232-2022  
stacey@cfnwmo.org  
www.cfnwmo.org  
**FINANCIAL SERVICES**

# June Calendar

All members, employees and guests are invited to attend events.

9

## DIPLOMATS CLUB Breakfast

**Presented by Heartland Health**

The Diplomats Club 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 9**

**7:15 to 8:30 a.m.**

**\$5, breakfast included**

Terrible's St. Jo Frontier Casino

777 Winners Circle

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:**

816/232-4461 or [www.saintjoseph.com](http://www.saintjoseph.com)

9

## parties on the parkway

Join us for our second Parties on the Parkway event of the year! This year is extra special, as it's the event's 10th anniversary. Don't forget to get your Party Passport stamped for a chance at great prizes in September!

These fun events are open to the public and allow those who attend to enjoy food, drinks, live music and St. Joseph's incredible Parkway system. Food and beverages are available for purchase. No alcoholic beverages may be brought into the event. Please bring your own lawn chair or blanket. Proceeds benefit the Friends of the Park. **Charlie & the Sting Rays -- a fan favorite from past Parties on the Parkway -- will play classic rock and dance music.**

**Thursday, June 9**

**5 to 8 p.m., FREE**

S.W. Parkway and 28th Street

(Rain date: June 16)

14

## YEN Meeting

**Presented by Altec**

The Young Executives Network is a group of young professionals representing the future of St. Joseph. YEN's mission is to provide professional and leadership development opportunities through social and educational programs. Interested in joining? Call 364-4107 or e-mail [redmond@saintjoseph.com](mailto:redmond@saintjoseph.com).

**Tuesday, June 14**

**7:30 to 9 a.m.**

St. Joseph Metro Chamber

3003 Frederick Ave.

15

## THE CHAMBER CLASSIC

**Presented by Community Health Improvement Solutions**

Join us for the annual Chamber Classic Golf Tournament. The \$80 per person cost includes green fees, cart, lunch, refreshments, team photo, goodie bag and more! The format is a four-player scramble. There are three flights of prizes.

**Wednesday, June 15**

**8 a.m. Shotgun Start**

Fairview Golf Course

33rd and Pacific streets

SPACE IS VERY LIMITED AND SPOTS FILL QUICKLY

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:**

816/232-4461 or [www.saintjoseph.com](http://www.saintjoseph.com)

21

## BUSINESS after HOURS

**Presented by Altec**

Make some new business connections at this networking event. Bring your business cards to exchange with other Chamber members!

**Tuesday, June 21**

**5 to 7 p.m.**

**Free**

Albrecht-Kemper Museum of Art

2818 Frederick Ave.

\*\* The June Lunch & Learn is the June 14 part of the Small Business Technology Series

## Small Business Technology Series

Join us for one or more of these **FREE** educational sessions at the Chamber. RSVP to 364-4101 or [parrish@saintjoseph.com](mailto:parrish@saintjoseph.com) at least two days before event. Limited seating. First come, first served with RSVPs. Also presented by the Small Business & Technology Development Center.

### Network Security & Data Protection

**11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., June 14, Lunch provided by Arby's.**

*Presenters: Larry Hedin, Heartland Technology Solutions  
Kevin Schmutzler & Dan Schmitz, SonicWall*

Even the smallest organization could have millions of dollars in assets throughout its system. Few people know all the ways those valuable assets can be compromised. Just installing a firewall and a daily backup of your data isn't going to cut it. Don't miss this informative event and the opportunity to learn exactly how you can guarantee the safety and security of your company's valuable information.

### Focus on Your Business

**Noon to 1 p.m., July 21 -- Brown bag lunch.**

*Presenter: Heartland Technology Solutions*

This class will offer helpful tips on how to use Microsoft Office in day-to-day business operations.

It will cover:

- How to get through everyday tasks more quickly
- How to overcome e-mail overload
- How to create professional documents and presentations with impact
- How to easily get insight into your data
- How to easily connect and share with customers, colleagues, friends and family

### How to Build a Website for Your Business

**11 a.m. to 1 p.m., June 22 -- Brown bag lunch.**

*Presenter: Jamie Brewer, Triggerfish Corporation*

You don't have a website? Your competition does. Let us bring you up to speed by showing you how to set up your own WordPress account and go through the steps to add copy, pics, video, and features. When complete, you will be able to build your own basic, but professional looking, website.

### Strategies for Improving Your Social Media Presence

**11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., July 27**

*Presenter: Ryan Evans, President/CEO of Evans Computer Services, LLC*

Social media sites like Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn can help build a new customer base for your business. Already using social media, but feel it's not really working for you? Attend this session to improve your social media presence, learn the do's and don'ts of proper social media marketing!