

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

CONNECTING THE CHAMBER WITH MEMBERS IN A MONTHLY NEWS SOURCE

CONNECTIONS

'Dips' walk in parade

St. Joseph Area Chamber of Commerce Diplomats Club members helped decorate the Queen's float for the Apple Blossom Parade. The volunteers walked beside the float along St. Joseph's Downtown streets, promoting the Chamber by passing out Parties on the Parkway fliers.



NEW MEMBERS

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

Pre-Paid Legal Services, Inc.

Angie Osborn
19318 State Route W, Cosby, MO
(816) 351-2721

www.angieosborn.com

LEGAL & IDENTITY THEFT SERVICES

Jimmy John's
Chad Robertson
1040 S. Belt Highway (07)
(816) 232-0707
www.jimmyjohns.com
RESTAURANT

Knobby Hill MX Park & Trophy Co.
Angie Osborn
19318 State Route W, Cosby, MO
(816) 351-2721
www.knobbyhillmx.com
RACE TRACK

Heavenly Home Investors, LLC
Richard H. McLaughlen, Jr.
2400 Frederick Ave. Ste 404 (06)
(816) 273-6524
rhm5385@msn.com
REAL ESTATE

Did you know?

Did you know that in the 1950s, Mickey Mantle and other baseball greats played at St. Joseph's Phil Welch Stadium? The recently renovated stadium, named for a former St. Joseph mayor, now is the home to the Saint Joseph Mustangs.

The Mustangs are a summer college wood bat baseball team and

are members of the M.I.N.K. baseball league.

Please see information on the back of this page for details of our Chamber Night at the Mustangs this month!



INTERVIEW WITH THE PRESIDENT

What are your thoughts on the disappointing outcome of the school levy and bond election?

Hindsight is always 20/20. The voters have spoken and we certainly respect that. First and foremost, it is imperative that we carefully review the financial status of our school district and bring an appropriate levy proposal back to the voters as soon as possible. For several reasons, the August election date was not practical so the next opportunity is in November. The amount of the next levy proposal is yet to be determined but will likely include a "sunset provision."

I don't foresee a bond proposal being reconsidered in the near term. We recognize the need for some new schools, but our recent experience suggests that a proposition for any new tax will be difficult to sell during this recessionary cycle.

Where do you think we are in that recessionary cycle?

Total employment in the St. Joseph Metro Area rose 38 percent in the decade from 1998 to 2008, which gave us strong momentum going into this global recession. Our local unemployment rate climbed rapidly from 5.8 last December to the 8.5 percent reported in May and we anticipate that it will exceed 9 percent sometime this summer before economic recovery finally starts showing up in the numbers. Employment data is always reported at least a month behind. However, we still predict measurable recovery by the third quarter of this year.

Let's not forget the makeup of our local manufacturing base is diverse and relatively strong. Consumer confidence is a critical component, but very difficult to predict. Instantaneous reporting of national and global events has a way of immediately impacting spending patterns even when people are still gainfully employed.

Attendance at our Career Fair last month was 1,800, about the same as the year before. While it was not surprising that the number of participating employers was down significantly, 61 exhibited at the event with job openings to fill.

How is our small business sector holding up?

Our Small Business Development Center here at the Chamber reports that 122 clients received free guidance counseling over the past year, including four new business starts, resulting in the creation of 31 new jobs. Too often, pride keeps some of our small business owners from asking for help when they need it the most. Our SBDC officer offers access to a wide range of federal- and state-funded resource programs, most of which are free.



Ted Allison, CED
President & CEO

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Lunch & Learn Box Lunch Seminar

*Lunch Catered
by Cubber's*

Jeff Penland, of Computer Network Solutions, will present a session to discuss the benefits of a managed technology solutions or "managed care" for small and medium-sized businesses. This works proactively to help prevent computer issues, downtime, and data and financial loss. Attend if you're interested in lowering your overall cost of technology ownership.

Tuesday, June 9
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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CHAMBER NIGHT AT THE MUSTANGS

Join us for baseball, networking and brats!

All Chamber members are invited to attend Chamber Night at the Mustangs. The Mustangs will offer Chamber member tickets in the hospitality area "Home Run Deck" for \$18 each. The Chamber will take an additional \$4 off each ticket for the first 50 Chamber members that sign up. These tickets include your way into the game, and the all-you-can-eat package with two drinks (beer, soda, or bottled water). The menu includes grilled hot dogs, hamburgers, bratwurst and Italian sausage as well as chips, peanuts, popcorn and pretzels.

Or, you can purchase a GA ticket for \$3 (normally \$5), but this doesn't include the all-you-can eat package or the "Home Run Deck" seating.

Pick up and pay for your tickets the night of the game. The Chamber staff will have a table set up by the entrance.

Tuesday, June 9
7 p.m.

Phil Welch Stadium
2500 Southwest Parkway

**Each Chamber member that attends
can enter for a special drawing the
night of the game.**

Call for your tickets today!
816/232-4461

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

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DIPLOMATS CLUB Breakfast

Presented by Heartland Health

With monthly breakfast meetings and seven subcommittees, membership in the Diplomats Club provides a number of opportunities to promote your business and serve as a vital link between the Chamber and the St. Joseph community. Join us for our monthly meeting!

Thursday, June 11
7:15 to 8:30 a.m., \$5

Vatterott College
3131 Frederick Ave.

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

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Parties on the Parkway

Presented by Nodaway Valley Bank

Join us for our second Parties on the Parkway event of the year! 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. June's featured band is [The Act](#). 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.

Thursday, June 11
5 to 8 p.m., FREE

S.W. Parkway and 28th Street
(Rain date: June 18)

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DIPLOMATS CLUB Blood Drive

The Diplomats Club will sponsor a blood drive. Please bring your photo identification. Donors must be 16 or older and weigh at least 115 pounds. Cholesterol testing will be performed on all units of blood collected.

All Chamber members who donate blood at the blood drive may enter themselves into a drawing for special prizes.

Thursday, June 11
8 a.m. to 6 p.m., FREE

Community Blood Center
3112 Frederick Ave.

Call Natalie Leonard-Redmond at
816/232-4461 to schedule a time to donate.

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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, June 16
7:30 to 9 a.m., FREE

Sunporch Cafe
East Hills Shopping Center
3702 Frederick Ave.

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THE CHAMBER CLASSIC

Presented by Community Health Plan

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 17
8 a.m. Shotgun Start

Fairview Golf Course
33rd and Pacific streets

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