

The Chamber Business Journal

March 2016

Doing what most people think just happens!

306 N. Main, McPherson, Kansas 67460 • Phone: 620-241-3303 • www.mcphersonchamber.org • Visit us on Facebook

Join the Fun!

The Chamber Challenge... the Battle of the Stars

The McPherson Chamber of Commerce is looking for energetic people who get pumped about having fun, laughing and enjoy the spirit of friendly competition. We need teams of 6 from one business/company or a combination of two to make up a team. The event will enhance employee engagement, having fun with a purpose, establishing rapport and a renewed sense of camaraderie, all while racking up ridiculous points to earn the coveted 2016 Chamber Challenge Championship title.

Schedule of the Chamber Challenge

- March 15—deadling for team registration & event sponsorship
- March 21-24—teams are completing their assigned challenges
- March 25—Award Celebration, Cheer on your favorite team & be witness to the shenanigans!

CHAMBER CHALLENGE AWARD CELEBRATION

Best Western Convention Center,
2211 E. Kansas Avenue, McPherson, KS
5:30 p.m. Hors d'oeuvres & Cash Bar
Mystery Game Challenges for teams to
accumulate the super bonus points
(we promise they will be entertaining
& somewhat humiliating)

& Cash Bash Drawing for \$2,500!

Cheer on Your Favorite Team!

Tickets available at the Chamber office, 306 N. Main
• \$25—includes Cash Bash ticket,
Hors d'oeuvres & great entertainment!
• \$15 — Hors d'oeuvres & great entertainment

Thank you for your renewed investment!

(1/18/2016 to 2/12/16)

Dillons #36, Four Season Realtors (Tiffani Floyd), Mac Movers, Kwik Shop, Assured Occupational Solutions, Kansas Gas Service

DQ GRILL & CHILL WINNERS

Congratulations to Emprire Bank, corner of Kansas Avenue & N. Ash. They are the winner of a DQ Cake.

Thank you to Roger and Karen Horn, owners of DQ Grill and Chill, 1435 N. Main, for providing the monthly DQ ice cream treat.

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2015 - 2016 Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

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Staff: Jennifer Burch – Executive Director • Debbie Hawkinson – Administrative Assistant • Alesia Stout – Program Assistant

From the United Way of McPherson County

The annual campaign for United Way of McPherson County has come to a close, and McPherson County responded to our needs by pledging \$203,185. Pledges were secured through individual gifts, business contributions and employee campaigns. I extend appreciation to all who contributed to our success.

This year's theme "Pass It Forward" was an intentional effort to encourage community members to focus on their neighbor and reach out with a help hand – in this case a helping dollar. During the past year, United Way utilized donations to support 16 human service programs focusing on education, health and income. Specifically, those programs were designed to

meet four priority areas in McPherson County including building self-reliance, providing basic needs, rebuilding lives and preparing for life. All age groups, from infancy to the elderly, benefit daily from these powerful programs.

United Way also invested dollars in the "Show You Care – BE KIND" reading initiative, three summer lunch programs and a county-wide preschool scholarship program. Our work also included participating in community conversations as we explored the needs and aspiration of McPherson County residents. We discovered community members yearn for more affordable, licensed daycare options. Thus, United Way has joined a team of leaders to explore the possibilities.

Supporting the United Way movement is one of the most powerful, collective opportunities in which one can be involved in the community. In addition to making a financial gift, we encourage individuals to volunteer and experience firsthand the power of our efforts.

I extend my appreciation to all McPherson County communities – Canton, Elyria, Galva, Gypsum, Inman, Lindsborg, Marquette, McPherson, Moundridge, Roxbury and Windom – for supporting the LIVE UNITED concept. All financial and service contributions solidify our presence in McPherson County and will allow United Way to continually "pass it forward."



**From the
McPherson
Convention
& Visitors
Bureau**

Joni Regnier
CVB Director

Story Time on the Trolley

The cold, crisp Saturday morning didn't keep the children from joining the fun as they climbed aboard for "Story Time on the Trolley." The event celebrated Valentine's Day with a ride on the trolley and a children's Valentine story. Afterwards the children were entertained with a game and craft project. Their adventure ended with a sweet treat at the local bookstore Twice Told Tales.

Purchased in 2008 by the McPherson Convention and Visitors Bureau, the trolley originally served as a creative way to introduce visitors to the community of McPherson. Over the years, the trolley has been a popular attraction.

tion during the Christmas season as businesses, residents and visitors tour the holiday lights.

"Story Time on the Trolley" is a new concept designed to utilize the trolley routinely while benefiting the children of McPherson. Introduced in December 2015 with a "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" theme, the story hour was well received and prompted plans for additional events. Collaboration between the McPherson Convention & Visitors Bureau and Twice Told Tales has resulted in fun-filled experiences for both children and parents.

What's next? On March 19, "Story Time on the Trolley" will celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday featuring the book, "Oh, The Places You'll Go!" The tour will include Dr. Seuss-based books, games and birthday treats. Community volunteer Lori Currier will read several books while riding along on the trolley. Her theatrical background will allow animation as she sports a large red bowtie similar to the character in "Cat in the Hat."

Tickets can be purchased for \$3 at the McPherson Convention & Visitors Bureau, 306 N. Main, or at Twice Told Tales, 104 S. Main. Trolley rides will depart from Twice Told Tales at 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. Space is limited to 25 guests per trolley ride. For more information, call 620-241-3340 or 620-718-5023.

Agriculture Future of America Partners Offer Scholarships and Training to Agriculture Students

The McPherson Chamber of Commerce Agriculture Committee is a partner of Agriculture Future of America (AFA) to support an agricultural scholarship program. AFA is a 501(c)3 corporation dedicated to supporting higher education and leader development of future agriculture producers and rural business leaders.

The McPherson Chamber of Commerce Agriculture Committee supports the AFA Leader and Academic Scholarship for McPherson County and AFA matches raised community funds. Since 2002 the McPherson Chamber of Commerce Agriculture Committee has awarded \$50,710.00 for 20 scholarships and an additional leadership conference tuition for 6 delegates. Events such as the When Pigs Fly BBQ Contest,

Farm Forum and individual contributions have made the scholarships possible. In addition the American Legion Family Night has been a great asset in raising funds for the scholarship as well. Family Night is scheduled for Thursday, March 17th.

Eligibility requirements for the McPherson County Scholarship include any high school seniors enrolling in an accredited college of agriculture. They must be a resident of McPherson County.

Each scholarship has two components – leader and academic. The leader portion introduces recipients to AFA's leader development program through a \$1,000 sponsorship to the AFA Leaders Conference, a development experience for elite agriculture students, which is scheduled November 3-6, 2016 in

Kansas City. The academic component provides financial support, typically \$1,600, for the recipient's tuition and fees upon successful attendance of Conference.

Scholarship recipients

from across the country are selected based on career vision and goal; leader and community involvement; and financial need. Eligibility requirements vary, but all students must be pursuing four-year degrees in agriculture-related fields. Applications are due March 18, 2016. Learn more and apply at www.agfuture.org/scholarships.

For additional information on AFA and the McPherson County Community Scholarship program contact Jennifer Burch, Executive Director of the McPherson Chamber of Commerce at 620-241-3303.

chamber events

February

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| 18 9:30 a.m. Chamber Coffee for PrairieLand Partners, 2401 E. Northview Road | 9 10:30 a.m. Ribbon Cutting @ Emprise Bank, 201 E. Kansas |
| 19 11:30 a.m. 2016 Leadership McPherson Class Celebration @ The Cedars | 10 9:30 a.m. Ribbon Cutting & Chamber Coffee @ Prairie LandWorks, 905 N. Vanguard – New location! |
| 24 4:00 p.m. Tartan Turkey Committee @ Chamber | 15 Deadline for Chamber Challenge ...Battle of the Stars– team registration & sponsors |
| 25 6:30 a.m. 2016 Farm Forum @ Perkins, 2111 E. Kansas | 16 4:00 p.m. Women's Event Committee @ Chamber |
| 9:30 a.m. Ribbon Cutting & Chamber Coffee @ Power House Weight Room, 1316 N. Main | 17 9:30 a.m. Chamber Coffee hosted by Heart To Heart @ TBD |
| 11:30 a.m. Chamber Board @ Chamber | 5:00-6:30p American Legion Family Night to benefit Agriculture Future of America Scholarships |
| | 21-25 Chamber Challenge |
| | Battle of the Stars |
| | 24 9:30 a.m. Chamber Coffee hosted by CASA at the McPherson Co. Community Foundation, 206 S. Main |
| | 11:30 a.m. Chamber Board @ Chamber |
| | 25 5:30 p.m. Chamber Challenge ... Battle of the Stars Award Celebration @ the Best Western Holiday Manor Convention Center, 2211 E. Kansas |
| | 31 9:30 a.m. Chamber Coffee @ Nex Tech Wireless, 200 S. Champlin |

March

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| 1 10:30 a.m. Ribbon Cutting for Little Caesars, 319 S. Main – New Owner! | • Excursion to Farmers Market followed by private walking food tour of North Beach |
| 12:00 p.m. Ambassadors @ Chamber | If you are feeling really adventurous optional excursions to Alcatraz, Beach Blanket Babylon and many other sights and experiences are available! |
| 3 9:30 A.M. Chamber Coffee hosted by WACC @ TBD | If you would like to join up to 36 other business women to take advantage of the networking and to learn about other cities on the trip to San Francisco - contact the McPherson Chamber of Commerce at 241-3303 or stop by 306 N. Main to make your \$300 deposit to reserve your spot today! Final payment of balance June 25. |
| 4:00 p.m. Leadership Board of Trustees @ Chamber | \$1,700 per person for double occupancy \$1,530 per person for triple occupancy \$1,440 per person for quad occupancy *Please add \$50 for non-Chamber members |
| 8 7:00 a.m. Ag Committee @ Perkins, 2111 E. Kansas | Travel arrangements are made by McPherson Travel Agency. |
| 12:00 p.m. Community Development @ Chamber | |

2016 Women's Chamber Trip – SAN FRANCISCO!

The McPherson Chamber of Commerce Women's Event Committee is pleased to announce that San Francisco is the 2016 trip destination. Departure is scheduled for August 25-August 29. The committee invites anyone interested in joining other business women to explore the northern California city, taking in the sights, visiting the iconic landmarks, exploring the different neighborhoods and networking.

Trip includes:

- Round trip airport transfers (McPherson/Wichita) by deluxe motor coach
- Round trip airfare from Wichita to San Francisco
- Airport transfers in San Francisco
- Provide city sightseeing tour
- Hotel accommodations for 4 nights at the San Francisco Marriott Union Square Hotel (located a few blocks from Union Square, and on the cable car line at the corner of Sutter and Powell)
- Evening group dinner
- Sightseeing tour to Muir Woods and Sausalito, with ferry ticket returning to San Francisco

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