

# The Chamber Business Journal

September 2017

*Doing what most people think just happens!*

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## McPherson County E-Community Loan Program Increases Maximum

*NetWork Kansas provides toolkit to increase entrepreneurial activity in participating communities.*

NetWork Kansas is pleased to announce an enhancement to its popular E-Community program. Qualified E-Communities (McPherson County E-Loan) will now be able to access a maximum of \$75,000 in loans, up from \$45,000. The 60/40 match criteria remains the same, but the program and loan fund criteria is subject to review every six months. E-Communities must meet both the program and loan fund criteria as follows:

### Program Criteria

The E-Community must have achieved AT LEAST ONE of the following during the evaluation window of 1/1/16 - 3/31/17: hosted Growing Rural Business or Ice House, sent at least 6 businesses to Destination Business Boot Camp and participated in Community Reinvention Program, had at least 2 businesses participate in Economic Gardening, and hosted/participated in 1 Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge event.

### Loan Fund Criteria

A comprehensive review and scoring system has been developed for E-Community loan portfolios. Each portfolio score is calculated by multiplying three metrics: Velocity, Retention Rate and Disbursement Ratio. The product of these metrics equals the overall portfolio score for each community.

“NetWork Kansas is always looking for ways to empower E-Communities with the tools they need to serve entrepreneurs,” said Erik Pedersen, Vice President of Entrepreneurship. “We enjoy sharing information in the hope that additional context helps communities make stronger, more informed decisions. The end result is that we get to reward communities when they do exceptional work.”

“The McPherson business Community and County appreciate the resources that have been made available to assist in the expansion and start up of 37 businesses in McPherson County,” said Jennifer Burch, Executive Director of the McPherson Chamber of Commerce. “McPherson County E-Loan scored 10.57, being number 1 in the State of Kansas of the 45 E-Loan Communities. I tribute the partnerships of the banks, the E-Loan Committee and the entrepreneurs for the success of the program. The McPherson Chamber of Commerce looks forward to continuing supporting the growth of the business community and entrepreneurial spirit of McPherson County.”

NetWork Kansas facilitates the development of an entrepreneurial ecosystem within participating communities through the E-Community Partnership. Contributing factors to successful development include availability of financial capital, a local leadership team that meets regularly and development of expertise and educational resources. All of these factors combine to increase entrepreneurial activity in participating towns, leading to increased startup activity, business expansion, job creation and more.

For additional information about the McPherson County E-Loan Program contact the McPherson Chamber of Commerce at 620-241-3303, www.mcphersonchamber.org or visit www.networkkansas.com, click on the Communities tab.

## Welcome to McPherson!

One of the many services that the Chamber provides the community is the “Welcome to McPherson” gift bag for new residents. We invite anyone new to McPherson to stop by the Chamber office at 306 N. Main to pick up your gift bag.

The Welcome bags include discount coupons, pens, notepads, brochures, and other valuable information all packed into a reusable shopping bag. The Welcome bags are provided by Chamber members to introduce new residents to their business and share about the services and products they provide.

If you are a Chamber member and would like to

provide items to be included in the Welcome bags you can drop them off at the Chamber office anytime. This is an ongoing FREE benefit to being a Chamber member.

Be the first to introduce yourself to a new resident – think about all the services and products a new resident would be seeking out –salon/barber, dentist, doctor, chiropractor, podiatrist, veterinarian, insurance agent, fitness center, pharmacy, bank, internet service, telephone, cable, real estate agent, accountant, the list goes on and on.

## From the McPherson Chamber of Commerce



**Jennifer Burch**  
Executive Director

Here is some more information about the Chamber I was able to dig up. Available records do not reveal the exact date of the beginning of the first commercial organization, which we now call the McPherson Chamber of Commerce. However, we do know definitely that the City of McPherson was organized in 1872, and by 1885 it had grown into a thriving community. A legitimate conclusion can be drawn, that the early day “boom period” of McPherson was between 1880 and 1895, was the period when the first commercial organization, known as a Commercial Club came into existence. By 1900 we find that such a Commercial Club had been in existence in handling many community duties now being handled by the Chamber of Commerce.

In about the year 1905 we find that the Commercial Club was no longer in existence, but that a new organization known as the Board of Trade had been organized and was carrying on the work of the old Commercial Club. The Board of Trade functioned in this capacity until 1915 when it was replaced by an organization, again known as the Commercial Club. The new Commercial Club marks the real beginning of the Chamber of Commerce for it was in 1916 that a full time secretary was employed and an office was maintained to the present year. The Commercial Club continued until the Chamber of Commerce was organized in 1918. The program of work the Chamber had increased so

that it was deemed necessary to incorporate the organization and a state charter was granted by the Secretary of State on May 3rd, 1921. The Chamber of Commerce has continued as a corporation from that date to the present time, essentially the same organization doing similar program of work today.

### 1921

- McPherson Chamber of Commerce purchased ground at the end of East Marlin (now Washington School) for a tourist camp ground

### 1931

- McPherson Chamber of Commerce boosts Highway 81 construction
- Contacted Ignatius O’Shaughnessy about starting a refinery in McPherson
- Raised cash to purchase land south of McPherson for the location of the Globe Refinery
- Peoples Bank was named the first depository bank for the Globe Refinery
- Addressed the need of telegraphic services
- Budget of \$5,500 was raised by dividing the town into 9 precincts and each board member be in charge of raising funds in their designated precinct.

### 1932

- Broke ground on the \$1million Globe Refinery on July 12, creating 350 construction jobs during a time when employment was sorely needed
- The matter of a new air-line service from Tulsa to Omaha was presented – an urgent need was expressed that McPherson be recognized along this route. Members of the Chamber Aviation Committee outline plans for a new airport.
- There was the matter of a truck driver arrest being made by local officers. The Chamber made contact with Commissioner to have him instruct officers to not arrest on sight “out of state trucks”, but to first give them an opportunity to

secure a license.

- Discussion regarding creating a utility board and investigating taking over the gas franchise.
- Mars Inc. – a large candy manufacturer was interested in a McPherson location.
- Worked with Highway Department on the various directions that Highway 81 would take to Moundridge, Inman and Hutchinson. Apparently Hutchinson had a different opinion of where and how the highway was to be going their direction.

### 1933

- In March, O’Shaughnessy became the largest individual refiner in the U.S. The refinery at the time had a capacity to produce 10,000 barrels of oil a day and a storage capacity of 370,000 barrels and 100 refinery workers. The McPherson Chamber of Commerce request that the refinery follow the region’s wage scale at the time. The refinery provided the common laborer with a salary of \$.35 hour.
- The matter of unemployment was discussed, it was agreed that nothing be done towards starting a movement to not give work to married women. It was decided that the city utilize the unemployed for cleaning alleys.
- An “Anti Hoarding” program was discussed
- Received inquiry by Dickey Oil Company

### 1934

- The Aviation Committee discussed the airport. The need was stressed to take action – proposed location is northeast edge of city. The committee was instructed to go ahead and select a site for purchase.
- Lake Inman project – the development of a game preserve or a state lake was discussed.

That is all for now. I will continue to dig and share the interesting history of the McPherson Chamber of Commerce

## DQ GRILL & CHILL WINNERS

Congratulations to Karleen Brown of Elevate Tutoring, 306 N. Main, Suite #3. They are the winner of a DQ Cake. Thank you Roger & Karen Horn, owners of DQ Grill & Chill, 1435 N. Main for providing the month DQ ice cream treat.

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# 2016 - 2017 Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

**President – Adrian Morales, Hess Oil • President Elect – Brad Mears, Kansas Municipal Utilities**

**Treasurer – Josh Menard, Swindoll, Janzen, Hawk & Loyd • Past President – Dr. Brandon Stupka, Stupka Chiropractic & Wellness Center**

**Board of Director– Tracy Sterling – Hall’s Culligan Water • Janet Lynch – CertainTeed Corporation • Zac Hoppes – Farmers State Bank**

**Katie Sawyer – Sawyer Land & Cattle • Tom Saffel – Prairie Landworks • Brad Bengtson – Home State Bank • Janey Anderson – A5 Western**

**Gordon Mohn - USD #418 Staff: Jennifer Burch – Executive Director Debbie Hawkinson – Administrative Assistant • Alesia Stout – Program Assistant**

## Welcome to the Board!

This is an exciting and sad time of the year – we say thank you to the retiring board members who have served their time. I hope it has been a great learning experience. I look forward to working with the new board members; Aaron Mayfield –**Edward Jones**, Chuck Singleton – **Central States Marketing**, Kelly Pitts – PrairieLand Partners and Dr. Trent Timson – **Community Foot Clinic of McPherson**.

### Learn About Programs & Resources

## South Central Kansas Economic Development District

The McPherson Chamber of Commerce and McPherson Industrial Development Co. have invited Steven Wilkinson, Executive Director of South Central Kansas Economic Development (SCKEDD) to McPherson on Wednesday, September 20th.

If you are not familiar with SCKEDD or perhaps only know a little, SCKEDD was established in 1972 as a non-profit organization to bring together communities and advocate economic growth. They work to improve the quality of life for those who live within their 14 county district. They provide grants and loan opportunities from programs that help each community in the district reach their goals.

We invite all county, city representatives, elected officials, county leaders, and any one interested in economic development, or just any interested person to attend. You just never know what you will learn.

Join us on Wednesday, September 20th at 3:30 p.m. at the McPherson Board of Public Utilities office located at 400 W. Kansas.

In order to plan for refreshments and handouts, please call 241-3303 or email [jennifer@mcpherson](mailto:jennifer@mcpherson) if you plan to attend.

## “Bridging the Gap” a Success

The 2017 Leadership McPherson Class really took the bull by the horns and made 30 families and 85 kids very happy. The class had not made a decision yet on what their class project would be until they became aware of a three week gap between when the summer lunch program ends and schools begins. This means families and kids that depended on the regular meals being provided, would have a three week gap. That of course is until the McPherson Chamber of Commerce 2017 Leadership McPherson Class stepped in. With funding being provided from several resources from the McPherson County Community Foundation, the leadership class organized, ordered and delivered sacks of food each week to the very appreciative families. The class is planning to earmark money they have not used for their class project to be used by USD #418 to develop a STEM project.

## Thank you Brandon, Janet, Tracy & Zac!

Thank you to Dr. Brandon Stupka of **Stupka Chiropractic & Wellness Center**, Janet Lynch of **CertainTeed**, Tracy Sterling with **Hall’s Culligan Water** and Zac Hoppes with **Farmers State Bank**. They each have served their 3 year term on the Chamber Board of Directors with Dr. Brandon Stupka serving as 2015-2016 President. We hope that serving on the board has been an positive experience and we wish you continued success in your business, especially now that you have more time.

## Manufacturing Month to be Celebrated in McPherson County

Save the date for Friday, October 6th when October will be designated as Manufacturing Month in McPherson County. The Chamber and MIDC together want to celebrate and recognize the industrial success throughout McPherson County. This is a great opportunity for our manufacturers and industries to highlight their operations and their workforce to energize and engage a future pipeline of skilled workers.

The Chamber and MIDC are encouraging county industries and manufacturers to open their doors and invite students and job seekers to experience all the potential of modern manufacturing and to help foster interest in these high tech and great paying manufacturing careers.

Students, teachers, parents and job seekers can see for themselves that manufacturing provides clean, safe, high-tech environments in which to pursue challenging, creative well-paid careers. By providing this opportunity, we anticipate more young people will want to follow a manufacturing career path.

If you are interested in opening your doors for tours during the month of October, please contact Jennifer at 620-241-3303 or email [jennifer@mcphersonsks.org](mailto:jennifer@mcphersonsks.org).

# chamber events

## August

- 17 9:30 a.m. Chamber Connections hosted by All in One Safety, 1411 S. 81 Bypass
- 18 10:00 a.m. Ribbon Cutting for Papa Murphy’s 1352 N. Main
- 24 Women’s Chamber Trip departs for New York City!
- 9:30 a.m. Chamber Connections hosted by AT&T @ Chamber
- 11:30 a.m. Chamber Board Meeting @ Chamber
- 31 9:30 a.m. Chamber Connections hosted by Integrated Health & Wellness Center, 1319 E. First

## September

- 4 Labor Day – Office Closed
- 6 12:00 Leadership Board @ Chamber
- 7 9:30 a.m. Chamber Connections at Domino’s, 719 N. Main
- 11 12:00 Ambassadors at Chamber
- 12 7:00 a.m. Ag Committee @ Perkins
- 12:00 Community Development @ Chamber
- 14 9:30 a.m. Chamber Connections hosted by Cox Communications at the Chamber
- 20 3:30 p.m. SCKEDD Presentation @ BPU office, 400 W. Kansas
- 28 11:30 a.m. Chamber Board @ Chamber



**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
— **MCPHERSON** —

## Kansans CAN and Will!

The Kansas Department of Education announced recently that **McPherson USD #418** was chosen as one of the seven school districts in the State of Kansas to participate in the Kansas CAN School Redesign project. There were twenty-nine school districts that applied for the project that is to improve student outcomes in school and beyond. The schools in USD #418 will be Eisenhower Elementary and McPherson Middle School.

The redesign project addresses realities in the workforce. By 2020 71 % of all jobs in Kansas will require training or classwork beyond a high school diploma; 35% of new jobs in Kansas will require an associate’s degree.

The beauty of this initiative is that it does not require any additional funding, but simply an ambitious energy driven effort by educators that are ready. Kansans have said that while academics are important, schools need to place equal focus on helping students attain nonacademic skills in order to be successful in the workforce.

The Kansans CAN School Project should not fall on the shoulders of our educators alone. It is also the responsibility as parents that are children are prepared students when they enter the doors of the school each day.

This is an exciting time for education in McPherson and the State of Kansas. Together we can achieve the vision: Kansas leads the world in the success of each student.

## Thank you Rural Appreciation Supporters


It was a hot one, but it did not discourage hungry 4-H’ers, family, friends & rural patrons. Thank you to the following for sponsoring the freshly grilled hamburgers, baked beans, chips, drink & ice cold watermelon. Culligan Water, McPherson Realty Exchange, CK Pharmacy, Glidden-Ediger Funeral Home, Dan & Sue Hervey, Judy Casey, Baldwin Creative Services, Emprise Bank, First Bank Kansas, Peoples Bank & Trust, Jantz Lumber and Hardware, Femco, Ted Morris, CPA, Allan & DeAnna Sents, Ameriprise Financial Holman, Munsey & Associates, Ellene McKean & Associates, Rev. Harold Nelson, Hugo Dahlstrom CPA, PrairieLand Partners, Grace Med Health Clinic, Michael Yowell, DDS, PA, K-State Research & Extension, McPherson Area Solid Waste Utility, Ken D. Cotton, DDS, Krehbiel’s Specialty Meats, First Street Liquor, O’Dell’s Laundry and Home State Bank.

Also huge thank you to the volunteers who braved the heat to prepare & serve the food.



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