

The Chamber *February 2015* Business Journal

Doing what most people think just happens!

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WELCOME TO THE CHAMBER!

Financial Institution Consulting, LLC
620 S. Ash
McPherson, Ks 67460
Contact: **Natasha B. Hollis**
Phone: (316) 941-7386
Web: www.ficrc.com

In the fourth quarter of 2014 Financial Institution Consulting, LLC (FIC) was founded by Natasha B. Hollis to assist organizations with the challenges of the current regulatory environment. Ms. Hollis has over 14 years of direct experience in the financial industry and has served in many key decision-making positions within banking organizations. She processes a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and a minor in computer Information Systems. Her professional certifications consist of an OBA – Certified Compliance Officer and she has maintained the Certified Community Bank Compliance Officer (CCBCO) certification since 2003. Ms. Hollis has overseen all aspects of the regulatory compliance and internal audit functions spanning lending, deposits, and operations areas. She conducts evaluations for BSA, Security, ACH, IT, QM, ATR, PCI and many other areas of compliance.

In her personal time, Natasha likes to exercise, garden and travel with family and friends.

Learn more about Financial Institution Consulting www.ficrc.com

Thank You!

Thank you does not even begin to express the appreciation that we have for all the businesses, and individuals that support the Chamber organization. This is your organization and we want it to be everything and more to you, the members and the McPherson community and area that it serves. (renews as of 12/5/14 to 1/12/15).

Save 'N Share, Moringa, AT & T, BNC National Bank, MiMac Printer, Wendys,

Thank you for your continued support. For a complete list of all Chamber of Commerce members, please go to our website at www.mcphersonchamber.org.

2015 Farm Forum

For over 30 years, the McPherson Chamber of Commerce Agriculture Committee has hosted the Farm Forum event and scheduled speakers to provide relevant and updated information about the business of agriculture.

The 2015 Farm Forum is scheduled for Tuesday, February 10, 2015, 6:30 a.m. at Perkins Restaurant, 2111 E. Kansas Avenue, McPherson.

Dr. Barry Flinchbaugh, retired KSU Extension State Leaders will speak on current agriculture policy and farm bill requirements. There will also be a presentation for Farm Family of the Year to Dwight and Cindy Baldwin, Special Lifetime Appreciation to Delbert Schrag and Friend of Agriculture to Jennifer Burch.

The cost of the breakfast is \$7.00 per person. To make your reservation call the Chamber Office at 620-241-3303 by February 4th.



Jennifer Burch
Executive Director

From the McPherson Chamber of Commerce

What does 2015 have in store for McPherson? There have been many projects in the making and hopefully some of them will be checked off the "to do" list in 2015. We are starting to see dirt moving and hearing the roar of heavy equipment for the McPherson Housing Coalition's Prairie Pointe Residences. The complex will consist of 45 two and three bedroom units, all electric and high efficiency. There is also work being done for the Terra Nova Apartments, located in the same area. The 64 unit luxury apartment complex will provide additional much needed housing as well. The apartments will include a mix of one bed/one bath, two bed/ one bath, and three bed/two bath units. We have finally crossed over a hurdle that we have struggled to jump over. A big thank you to the McPherson Housing Coalition and to Ross Vogel (Development Consultant) and Brent Paul (Developer and owner) for investing in McPherson.

Jennifer Burch, Executive Director

AT & T and Chamber Host Legislative Coffee

Area residents will have an opportunity to discuss legislative issues with their elected officials during a Legislative Coffee.

All legislators whose districts include all or part of McPherson County have been invited to attend the coffee scheduled for 9 a.m., Saturday, February 21, 2015 at The Well, 101 N. Main, McPherson. Attending will be: State Representatives Les Mason (McPherson), Don Schroeder (Moundridge), and State Senator Rick Wilborn (District 35). State Representative Steven Johnson (Lindsborg) has a prior commitment and will not be able to attend.

The informal coffee sponsored by the BAM! Committee of the McPherson Chamber of Commerce and AT & T, have provided legislators a chance to receive direct input from citizens about issues.

Maintaining/Expanding Your Business Kansas Small Business Development Center FREE Counseling

Whether your business is facing a major challenge, contemplating an expansion, inquiring about a startup or simply interested in another opinion, KSBDC consultants are here to help. A KSBDC consultant will work closely with you to develop and implement intelligent solutions.

Once a month, the McPherson Chamber of Commerce office serves as an Outreach Center for a consultant from the Kansas Small Business Development Center.

The KSBDC offers individualized, confidential, and comprehensive business consulting at no charge to its clients. Any existing small business or individual interested in needing counseling in areas of: marketing and sales, accounting, financial analysis and cost control, personnel, inventory control, business start-up or acquisition, business liquidation or sale, strategic planning, and many other areas.

One hour long appointments are available beginning at 9:00, 10:00, 2:00, 3:00 and 4:00 and can be made by calling the McPherson Chamber of Commerce at 620/241-3303.

The schedule is as follows:

Monday's February 9, March 9, April 13, May 11, June 8, July 13, August 10, September 21, October 12, November 9, December 14.

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2014 - 2015 Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

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chamber events

January

- 15 **9a** 2015 Leadership McPherson Retreat @ Hesston
- 9:30a** Chamber Coffee hosted by Hutchinson Regional Medical Center @ Chamber
- 16 **8:30a** 2015 Leadership McPherson Retreat @ Hesston
- 21 **4p** Women's Event Committee @ Chamber
- 22 **9:30a** Chamber Coffee hosted by Charmin' Tree Acres @ Chamber Office
- 10:30a** Lakeside Plaza Board @ Chamber
- 11:30a** Chamber Board meeting @ Chamber
- 29 **9:30a** Chamber Coffee hosted by Four Seasons Realtors, 1020 N. Main

February

- 3 **8:30a** 2015 Leadership McPherson Class @ Chamber
- 12 Noon** Ambassadors @ Chamber
- 4 **12 Noon** Leadership Board of Trustees @ Chamber
- 5 **9:30a** Chamber Coffee @ Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Center, @ 122. W. Marlin, Suite 208
- 10 **6:30a** 2015 Farm Forum @ Perkins Restaurant
- 4pm** Community Development @ Chamber
- 12 **9:30a** Ribbon Cutting & Chamber Coffee hosted by Studio 54 Glass Art, 115 N. Main
- 17 **8:30a** Leadership McPherson Class @ Farmers Alliance
- 18 **4p** Women's Event @ Chamber
- 19 **9:30a** Chamber Coffee hosted by Nex Tech Wireless, 200 S. Champlin,
- 21 **9a** 2015 Legislative Coffee @ The Well, 101 N. Main

DQ GRILL & CHILL WINNERS

Every month DQ Grill & Chill, 1435 N. Main provides 1 lucky chamber member a FREE DQ Ice Cream Cake. This month's lucky winner is **Dustin Haigh Agency, 920 W. Kansas**. We hope they enjoy their special treat!



From the United Way of McPherson County

As we begin a new year, United Way is excited to welcome nine new board members. These individuals were hand selected because of their skills, talents and aspirations. And it is anticipated they will provide great insight and enthusiasm in

helping promote the LIVE UNITED movement in McPherson County.

Working together this group will strive to raise United Way visibility and resources. They will work to boost United Way credibility. They will deepen connections with donors and partner agencies. They will help engage volunteers and advocates. Their ultimate goal will be to inspire concrete action to conquer community needs throughout McPherson County.

United Way boasts a total of 23 board members. While some might question the quantity of individuals on our board, I celebrate the amazing opportunities it offers. United Way of McPherson County has one paid staff

member. Thus, the involvement of volunteers is instrumental in our ability to raise funds, distribute grants and advocate for human service programs. The key to our success is a WORKING board.

Our work involves human service organizations, teachers, law enforcement, children, industries, faith groups, bankers, librarians, college students and many more. Together we participate in community conversations while focusing on the needs and aspirations of our fellow residents. United Way of McPherson County works strategically with many partners to focus on underlying causes to community challenges. TOGETHER we find the answers.

2015 promises to be a productive, exciting year for United Way as we focus on developing county-wide relationships. Consider how you can help transform the work of United Way. Host a community conversation in your home or workplace. Inform us about volunteer opportunities. Introduce us to community leaders, health care providers and educators. Share your community joys and concerns.

When we engage all community members, the positive outcomes will be magnified beyond our imagination.

Anne Kirchner
Executive Director

FROM THE KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

The Kansas Department of Commerce encourages businesses across the state to participate in a very important study examining Internet usage among all Kansas businesses. The assessment is designed to help the State of Kansas develop strategies and policies that will enable businesses across Kansas to get more from using the Internet | their ongoing business activities. The findings of the study will help Kansas businesses be more competitive, and will allow the Department of Commerce to create programs and tools to further fuel your business' growth.

To take the assessment follow the link: www.sngroup.com/kansasbusiness

In exchange for your participation with this assessment, SNG and the Kansas Department of Commerce will provide you with:

- An invitation to attend an exclusive webinar to help your businesses better compete
- A whitepaper entitled "Best Practices for Utilizing Broadband to Compete in Today's Digital Economy."

This assessment, conducted by third-party vendor Strategic Networks Group (SNG), has been commissioned by the Kansas Department of Commerce. Your information will not be used for anything beyond its intended purpose and will not be used to sell you anything. All of your answers will remain confidential and not person/business information will be shared with any other entity. SNG report results only in aggregate to the state.



From the McPherson Convention & Visitors Bureau

Looking back and Forward

With 2014 coming to a close, it's time to take a look back at what's been going on at the McPherson Convention and Visitors Bureau.

In the nearly six years since I've been the director, a number of new ideas have been implemented. We installed our 4th mural, "Battle Hill Bison" by Matthew Richter and commissioned our 5th mural about Central Christian College of Kansas painted by Naomi Ullum, which will be installed soon in the 100 block of E. Marlin. Five murals was always our original goal, but I wouldn't mind doing a few more someday. I've been contacted by other organizations interested in doing their own murals which pleases me to no end.

This was our sixth year for the movies in the park program. We broke all kinds

of records with "Frozen" thanks to Rep. Les Mason and family who sponsored and gave away free snow cones.

We were involved for the second year in organizing the summer music series. The concerts have yet to find the traction the movies have so we're going to try something different next summer. Look for more concerts downtown based on the success of The Mudbugs concert and street dance.

We awarded more than \$30,000 in grants to local organization to assist with marketing, events and sports tournaments. The program started in 2005 when \$8,200 was awarded strictly for marketing. I look for more growth in this area as applications increase and funding is available.

CVB staff continues to recruit new meetings and conventions to town. We have a number of unique facilities and our central location is an advantage for statewide meetings. Give us a call, 241-3340, if you'd like more information.

Anne Hassler
Executive Director

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