

The Chamber Business Journal

March 2015

Doing what most people think just happens!

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

WELCOME TO THE CHAMBER!

ESSDACK/McPherson County Learning Center
906 E. Kansas Avenue
McPherson, KS 67460
Contact: Elaine Farres, Site Director, Lara Schomig, Amy Wagoner
Phone: 620-241-5250
Fax: 620-504-5002
Web: www.essdack.org
Facebook: McPherson County Learning Center

The ESSDACK Learning Center concept began as a performance-based high school diploma program in 1996 in three central Kansas locations. The program has evolved and expanded into community learning centers across Kansas.

Crucial to the Learning Center success is the support of the sponsoring high schools, many of which utilize the program as an alternative for traditionally-aged high school students, both as dropout prevention and credit recovery. Courses meet the standards of the district issuing the diploma. The computerized delivery system is consistent in all of the learning centers, but the program is individualized for each student both in content and schedule. The students work at their own pace and set their own goals and timeline. The addition of totally virtual delivery in 2005 allows for anywhere, anytime learning. The addition of a career development component in the fall of 2006 helps meet long term goals of students. The flexibility of the courses allows each student to juggle employment and family responsibilities while earning his or her diploma.

As part of the high school diploma completion program, ESL classes are offered to help non-native speakers gain proficiency in Reading, Writing, and speaking English. Students who have small children are welcome to bring them to the supervised playroom while they attend classes. The McPherson program also utilizes community services and resources to offer unique educational and recreational opportunities that meet the needs of students both in and out of the classroom. The dedicated, caring staff members are committed to the immediate and long term success of every student.

McPherson County Learning Center strives to adapt to meet the needs of the community it serves, and the staff partners with other organizations and agencies to provide a variety of services to all members of the community.

Pavement Pro's LLC
110 N. Hartup
McPherson, KS 67460
Contact: Corey Jones, Denise Jones and Roger Jones
Phone: 316-617-6073
Fax: 316-665-6685
Web: www.pavementproslc.com

Pavement Pro's LLC is a full service paving and maintenance company started in 2014. They pride themselves on their dedication to quality and their customers. They take the time to educate their customers on all of the available options to give them the best results at the best price. The owners and employees have been in this industry for over a decade and are excited to serve the McPherson community they have called home for many years.

Kiwanis Club of McPherson
P.O. Box 374
McPherson, KS 67460
Contact: Sandy Wathke, Secretary/Treasurer, Barbara Greischar, President Select, Gloria Schroeder, President Elect, Glenn Gayer, President
Phone: 620-242-4183
Web: www.kiwanis.org

Kiwanis is a global organization dedicated to improving the world one child and one community at a time. The McPherson Kiwanis Club presently has 42 members. The international project is to eliminate maternal neonatal tetanus in 34 countries. McPherson's goal is to raise \$30,000 for this project. Locally they hold an annual pancake feed the first Saturday in March. Funds raised from the project allow them to give scholarships to high school graduates, fund Key Leader Camp, BS of A, McPherson County Baseball Association, Boys & Girls State, Relay for Life, Scottish Festival, Arts Council Choir, Special Olympics, Numana, Books for Grade Schools, Fire Pup Program and they are active in "When Pigs Fly", Red Cross Bloodmobile, All Schools Day, Loaves & Fishes, Reading at the grade schools and more. Members love their club.

Graham Crain
Four Seasons Realtors
1020 N. Main
McPherson, KS 67460
Contact: Graham Crain
Phone: 620-755-3851
Web: www.4seasonsrealtors.com

Graham Crain is excited to announce that he has joined Four Seasons Realtors as a full-time licensed Realtor. Graham's background is in multi-family apartment complexes, commercial complexes and mixed use complexes. He also has experience in the single family housing market in McPherson County. He is confident that he can assist you in your real estate needs, whether it is looking to buy, sell or invest.

Graham is President of the YP MAC and a graduate of 2013 Leadership McPherson Class. Graham and his wife, Jenna moved to McPherson in 2012. They chose McPherson to be closer to family and the opportunities that McPherson presents as a thriving, Kansas community. Graham and Jenna are graduates of Kansas State University and Jenna is a legal assistant for Wise & Reber, L.C. They have two daughters, Kennedy and Landry.

SkyNet Unmanned Aerial Services
880 N. Vanguard Street
McPherson, KS 67460
Contact: John Ferguson
Phone: 316-847-8809
Web: www.skynetuavs.com

SkyNet Unmanned Aerial Services is an aerial photography and videography company specializing in a variety of commercial and residential uses. Using cutting edge technology and the latest in unmanned aircraft, SkyNet delivers HD photos and video to clients in the McPherson area and around the world.

Some services SkyNet provides are roof inspections, flare trip and pipeline inspections, security/surveillance, thermal imagery, real estate marketing, business advertising and crop inspections. John Ferguson, CEO of SkyNet has 20 years experience in the unmanned vehicle industry and looks forward to overseeing an innovative service in a central Kansas location to benefit locals and businesses alike.

Studio 54 Glass Art
115 N. Main
McPherson, KS 67460
Contact: Susan & Scott Reinecke
Phone: 620-241-1469
Web: www.studio54glass.com

Scott and Susan Reinecke have relocated to McPherson from Greensburg, Kansas. The active Main Street in McPherson was a large part of their decision to move plus it brings them closer to their son who coaches football at Manhattan High School. They currently have one kiln for Susan's fused glass set up in the store and are making room for Scott's stain glass work. They welcome custom work and will be holding classes soon.

Pro Nails Organic Spa
209 S. Centennial Drive
McPherson, KS 67460
Contact: Nhu-Y Nguyen (Tracy), Nhut Nguyen (Mike)
Phone: 620-245-8989
Facebook - coming soon

Tracy and Mike are brother and sister owners of Pro Nails Organic Spa. This is their second location, the first being in Newton. Pro Nails Organic Spa specializes in providing professional nail care for ladies and gentlemen. The salon offers the following services: pedicures, manicures as well as nail enhancements that involve applying acrylic nails, pink and white powder, gel nails, shellac gel polish, dipping powder and nail art designs. All technicians are professionally certified and will keep the salon very clean and sanitized so their clients can have a nice atmosphere to relax in. They also have organic pedicure and manicure services that enhance their client's physical appearance and mental relaxation.



Jennifer Burch
Executive Director

From the McPherson Chamber of Commerce

Wow! There is a lot happening in McPherson! I don't know if it is because spring is in the air or what! Although it is February, many of the construction projects are taking advantage of the unusually warm breaks we are getting in the weather. Hopefully expediting several of the housing projects that are going on. Spring time is typically a time that if a person has a move in mind that is when it is likely

to happen. The Chamber has welcome bags that we provide to new residents to McPherson. In the bags is information to get new residents acquainted with our community and introduce them to the many businesses and the services and products they provide. This is a great way to be the first to introduce your business to a new resident. If you would like to provide a brochure, coupon, small gift item, we would be glad to include it in the welcome bags. Just bring about 50 items to the Chamber office. This is FREE to McPherson Chamber Members.

Thank you.
Jennifer Burch, Executive Director

AT & T and Chamber Host Legislative Coffee

The McPherson Chamber of Commerce invites area residents to 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 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.

McPherson Merchants to Meet

The McPherson Chamber of Commerce and McPherson Main Street have scheduled two meeting times to meet with member merchants to review the 2014 Christmas promotion and to discuss organization events, promotion & marketing.

If you are interested in attending one of the following meetings (both dates will cover the same information) please call the Chamber at 241-3303 to let us know which date.

Tuesday, February 24 at 8:30 a.m. or Thursday, February 26 at 5:15 p.m. Both will be held at the Chamber office, 306 N. Main.

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Treasurer- Jaymie Rothrock, Swindoll, Janzen, Hawk & Loyd • Past President- Dr. Brandon Trost, Integrated Health & Wellness Center

Directors: Chad Clark, McPherson Healthcare Foundation, Andy Elliott, Elliott Insurance & Real Estate, Gina Venable, Venable Jewelers, Bret McClendon, USD #418, Michele Cullen, Welco Services, Janet Lynch, CertainTeed, Zach Hoppes, Farmers State Bank, Tracy Sterling, Culligan Water

chamber events

February

- 19 **9:30a** Chamber Coffee hosted by Nex Tech Wireless, 200 S. Champlin.
- 21 **9a** 2015 Legislative Coffee @ The Well, 101 N. Main
- 24 **8:30a** Merchant Meeting X 2 @ The Chamber, 306 N. Main
- 25 **12:00noon** BAM! @ Chamber, 306 N. Main
- 26 **9:30a** Chamber Coffee @ McPherson Hospital Urgent Care Clinic, 823 N. Main
- 11:30a** Chamber Board @ Chamber, 306 N. Main
- 5:15p** Merchant Meeting X 2 @ The Chamber, 306 N. Main

- 5 **9:30a** Ribbon Cutting & Chamber Coffee hosted by Treasure Chest Gun Shop, 1100 W. Kansas
- 9 **9-4p** KSBDC Consulting
- 10 **7a** Ag Committee @ Perkins, 2111 E. Kansas
- 4p** Community Development @ Chamber, 306 N. Main
- 12 **9:30a** Chamber Coffee hosted by Sunflower Bank, 120 W. Kansas
- 12:00noon** Tartan Turkey Committee Meeting
- 17 **8:30a** 2015 Leadership Class @ Chamber, 306 N. Main
- 18 **4p** Women's Event @ Chamber, 306 N. Main
- 19 **9:30a** Ribbon Cutting & Chamber Coffee hosted by SkyNet @ The Well, 101 N. Main
- 23 **4p** Granny Scam Prevention Seminar @ The Chamber, 306 N. Main
- 26 **9:30a** Chamber Coffee hosted by McPherson College, 1600 E. Euclid
- 11:30a** Chamber Board @ Chamber, 306 N. Main

March

- 3 **8:30a** 2015 Leadership Class @ the McPherson Museum, 1111 E. Kansas
- 12:00noon** Ambassadors @ Chamber, 306 N. Main
- 4 **12:00noon** Leadership Board of Trustees @ Chamber, 306 N. Main

Nominations Needed For The Outstanding McPherson Eighth Grade Awards

It's time to nominate that special 8th grade student for giving of their time and talents to make a difference in our community. The McPherson Chamber of Commerce established the OMEGA Award to recognize McPherson County 8th graders for their leadership qualities, courage, compassion and service to their community. Your help is needed to see that a deserving student in McPherson County is recognized for their positive attitudes and actions. Please take a few minutes and help nominate an eighth grader for this prestigious award.

Nomination forms are available at the McPherson Chamber office, 306 N. Main or online at www.mcphersonchamber.org. OMEGA (Outstanding McPherson Eighth Grade Award) nomination forms are due by Wednesday, March 11th, 2014.



Anne Kirchner
Director

From the United Way of McPherson County

"One must know not just how to accept a gift, but with what grace to share it." These words spoken by Maya Angelou provide daily guidance and inspiration as I represent United Way of McPherson County. Most people who are familiar with United Way understand our efforts are focused on raising funds during the fall months. But what happens next?

United Way representatives and volunteers become consumed with the grant application process, which lasts for several months. More than 30 individuals assist with daily interviews, application reviews, follow-up questions and data collection. They are searching for programs that will meet specific community needs. Those programs must be associated with human service organizations addressing health, education or income. Additionally, our local United Way chapter requires at least one of four pri-

ority areas be addressed with the proposed program. Priority areas in McPherson County include rebuilding lives, providing basic needs, building self-reliance and preparing for life. Seventeen organizations representing 21 programs submitted grant requests for 2015. United Way must determine which programs are worthy of receiving limited dollars. This is no small task, but is an experience I will never regret.

I have been forced to explore and understand community needs. I have been challenged to communicate those needs throughout McPherson County. Those conversations have created relationships built on trust. Trust has recruited volunteers and finances to support our efforts to address problems at the root of the cause. The rewards are many - educated children, self-sufficient adults and healthy senior citizens. When someone asks why it's important to give to United Way, the answers are simple. United Way is focused on community. We advocate for our partner agencies. We network to recruit services and volunteers. We dedicate time and expertise to raise large amounts of dollars. But most importantly, we follow the advice of Maya Angelou and focus on sharing our financial resources with others.

Anne Kirchner
Executive Director

Shopping Dollars Spent During Christmas in McPherson

The McPherson Chamber of Commerce and McPherson Main Street 2014 Holiday promotion that they partner to organize is being recorded as a success. The 2014 Candy Cane Cash registration slips resulted in 6,900 entries at \$50.00 each equals a phenomenal \$345,000 spent in 26 participating stores! This is an increase of almost 12% from last year's 6,100. They are able to document shoppers from 110 different Kansas communities, 30 different out of state entries coming from multiple states, with Texas and Oklahoma having the most.

Congratulations and happy shopping goes out to Tim Swartzendruber, the winner of the 2014 Candy Cane Cash. Tim was presented with certificates totaling \$500 that can be spent in any of the 26 participating stores in any combination. "We are extremely pleased that this promotion is successful and that more people are spending their dollars locally," said Ann Engel, Main Street Executive director. "I agree," stated Jennifer Burch, Chamber Executive Director, "while we hoped that the numbers would increase, we never imagined that we would continue to see growth year after year." (Numbers are based on each entry representing \$50 spent and do not take into account entries not turned in, consumers who chose not to participate, and individual business promotion).

Thank you to the following businesses that participated in the Candy Cane Cash promotion: A Few of My Favorite Things, A5 Western, Artshirt Gear for Sport, Brooklyn & Co., Brooklyn & Co. Bridal, Brown's Shoe Fit, Clayworks at Disability Support, Creative Hairlines, Daylight Donuts, Grabers ACE Hardware, Guys 'N Gals, Gypsy Wagon, Holiday Inn Express, Hopp's Sound & Electric, Mattress Haven, Montana Mikes, McPherson Family YMCA, Shimmerz Tanning Salon, Stitches Quilt Shop, Studio 54 Glass, Stupka Chiropractic Center, The Bookshelf/Hidden Closet, The Cook's Nook, The Village Geek, The Well, Venable Jewelers.

Granny Scam Seminar

Recognizing the signs of fraud & your responsibility to report it

The McPherson Chamber of Commerce and Natasha Hollis, Financial Institution Consulting, LLC invite you to learn what elder abuse is and recognizing the red flags of fraud. Did you know that under the Kansas Statute KSA 39-1431 certain professionals and caregiver situations have a legal obligation to report suspected abuse or exploitation?

The seminar is scheduled for Monday, March 23 from 4:00 to 5:30 at the McPherson Chamber of Commerce office, 306 N. Main and is offered FREE.

What will be covered:

- The definition of abuse and exploitation
- Who is required to report suspected abuse
- Legal safe harbor protecting reporters
- Indicators of abuse and exploitation
- What to report
- And where to report it

Who should attend? Social workers, nurses dentists, therapist, counselors, case managers, bank trust officers, legal representatives, governmental assistance providers, home health care workers, anyone that comes in contact with elderly or senior citizens.

Please call the Chamber at 241-3303 to reserve.



Anne Hassler
CVB Director

From the McPherson Convention & Visitors Bureau

Down time is time for planning February is what we call a down time in the travel industry. For many people I think it is a time to plan for the upcoming months when better weather prevails. We recently attended a 4-day sport show in Wichita that was followed by an even longer home show the next weekend. It's fun to plan out your flowerbed or shop for an RV and think about all the fun activities you'd like to do when the weather warms up.

We're putting together summer plans at the CVB too. We're about to finalize our 2015 Movies in the Park schedule, have lined up our first big concert the week of All Schools Day, started talking to the 4th of July fireworks company and even booked a special event for September I think people will really like. All of these events involve sponsorship of some kind, which tells you quite a bit about the community we live in. Quality of life is important in McPherson. It's just one of the pieces of the puzzle with education, jobs, housing, infrastructure, safety and so on that civil servants work everyday to maintain at a high level here.

McPherson is a great place to live and to visit. Tell everyone you meet or connect with on social media what you like about our community. Word of mouth is a powerful promotional tool.

Anne Hassler, Executive Director

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