

The Chamber Business Journal

December 2015

Doing what most people think just happens!

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Thank you for your renewed investment!

(10/22-11/16)

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From the McPherson Chamber of Commerce



Jennifer Burch
Executive Director

What does the Chamber do? I would invite anyone to spend a day at the Chamber and discover just all that we do. As I write this article to submit to the newspaper, I will be leaving to go to Hesston and unload my vehicle of all the materials, refreshments, handouts, notebooks, etc. needed for the 2016 Leadership McPherson Class training. The work that has taken place and continues in organizing the Leadership Program just doesn't happen with the crossing of your arms and the nod of your head. A great deal of time is dedicated to making contacts, arranging facilitators, making each session connect to the next, tweaking the curriculum to keep it fresh, providing supporting materials, etc. This is in addition to the class today, meetings, research, emails & phone calls. We are also still on a fact finding mission regarding the results of the childcare needs assessment and a membership healthcare plan. As a local Chamber, we do not have the mass numbers

needed to launch a program. We have been meeting with various representatives discussing a possible regional or statewide healthcare plan. We certainly are getting more attention from businesses as they receive their insurance renewals, some seeing 25-30% increasing. Unfortunately, insurance is a complex animal and a solution will not happen overnight. Also, the Chamber has been involved in the ACT NCRC Training Academy – the 2016 McPherson High School class will be the first to graduate with the added credential of a minimum silver ACT WorkReady Certificate along with their state required high school credits. The training will be complete soon and hopefully McPherson will be an accredited Work Ready Community. The team will then need to outline a plan to share with employers on how to utilize the certificate when presented by a prospective employee. In the middle of this we started working on Christmas promotions, that again just doesn't happen. Luckily, McPherson is a great community and understands the term "collaboration". We all want the same thing, to be part of a successful organization, to have successful events, programs and activities. As the Chamber tag line says "Doing What Most People Think Just Happens", that's just what we do!

2016 Leadership McPherson Announced

The McPherson Chamber of Commerce Leadership Board of Trustees announced the 2016 class for Leadership McPherson, a skills based leadership program that provides hands on training. Members of the 2016 Leadership McPherson Class are: Kevin McKean - City of McPherson Police Department, Aaron Mayfield - Sunflower Bank, Brad Bengtson - Home State Bank, Amy Bower - McPherson Hospital Development Office, Jenna Crain - Wise & Reber, Eric Duerksen - Hutton Construction, Alesia Stout - McPherson Chamber of Commerce

and Clinton Terry - McPherson Hospital. "The foundation of the Leadership McPherson experience is hands on processes and tools used to promote the collective work of all individuals," said Jennifer Burch, Executive Director of the McPherson Chamber of Commerce. Since 1982, the McPherson Chamber of Commerce has offered Leadership McPherson, as community based program. Leadership in a community is vital to its ongoing success and that is why the Chamber is involved. If McPherson is going to continue to be successful in the next century,

McPherson must have community leaders at all levels. Leadership McPherson is a 5 month program that consists of a two-day retreat (overnight) and 8 class sessions between January and May. Sessions include 21st Century Leadership Skills, Learning, Thinking, Working Styles, Collaboration, Facilitation, Vi-

sioning, Steps to a Performing Community, Civic Leadership training, discussions, and community exposure.

"Leadership is not about titles, positions or flowcharts. It is about one life influencing another."

John C. Maxwell

DQ GRILL & CHILL WINNERS

Congratulations to Citizens, Financial Services, 1300 N. Main. 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 treat product for a special McPherson Chamber of Commerce member.

Kansas Ranked Fifth Most Business Friendly State

(Published article from the Wichita Eagle 11/11/2015)

Kansas has been named the fifth most business-friendly state in the nation in a survey by Pollina Corporate Real Estate, an influential site selection firm.

The study ranks states based on 32 factors controlled by state government. The state has ranked in the top 10 since 2008 and was ranked fifth in 2014.

Kansas scored well on:

- High school and college completion rates
- Low business inventory
- Individual income tax rates
- Its pro-business regulation
- Unemployment rate
- Transportation infrastructure

Kansas scored poorly on:

- Average teacher compensation
- College funding per student
- Most tax categories such as corporate tax, sales and gross receipt tax and property tax

Kansas has room for improvement for its cost of electricity and crime rate.

In terms of the state's incentives and economic development effort, it scored very well for incentives and fairly well for its marketing and responsiveness to new and existing companies.

To view the full survey www.pollina.com/top10probusiness.html

McPherson County Assessment of Child Care Needs

Representatives from USD #418, MIDC, United Way of McPherson County and McPherson Chamber of Commerce compiled the results of the recent survey that was sent to employers to parents of USD #418 students and other means of reaching out to parents. (110 responses)

Questions:

1. What is your current child care situation?

- 38.5% - stay home or with family
- 11% - stay with a friend
- 20.2% - attend private, licensed daycare
- 21.1% - attend a daycare center
- 10.1% - attend a daycare center & a preschool
- 0.9% - attend USD #418 PreK fulltime
- 3.7% - attend USD #418 PreK part-time

- 9.2% - receive childcare outside McPherson
- 11.9% - received childcare more than one setting
- 29.4% - attend school (k-12)

2. Would you take advantage of a quality community childcare center if available?

- 51.8% - Yes
- 40% - Maybe
- 9% - No

3. What type of childcare would interest you?

- 24.3% - Monday-Friday normal school hours
- 54.4% - Monday-Friday extended hours (7-6)
- 9.7% - Monday-Friday half days
- 15.5% - Two-Three days per week normal school hours
- 10.7% - Two-Three days per week half days

- 11.7% - After school only
- 15.5% - Monday-Friday night time for shift work
- 22.3% - Sick child daycare
- 40.8% - Back up childcare
- 21.4% - Summer childcare
- 18.4% - Holiday childcare

4. Age of children

- 26.9% - Birth-1
- 15.4% - 1-2
- 15.4% - 2-3
- 15.4% - 3-4
- 15.4% - 4-5
- 53.8% - Elementary school age
- 11.5% - Middle school age
- 3.8% - High School age

The committee will meet to review the results closely and determine what the next step will be in addressing the need of quality childcare.

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2015 - 2016 Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

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From the United Way of McPherson County



Anne Kirchner
Director

Fall is a busy time for United Way as we strive to raise \$225,000 to support local human service organizations addressing issues related to education, health and income. This is not an easy task as we deal with a fluctuating economy, company merges and a mobile society. Our donor pool is constantly changing and we meet daily challenges to engage the entire community in supporting the "PASS IT FORWARD" campaign.

On the most challenging days I try to pause and reflect upon the positive results that have occurred this year. I am grateful for the individuals and businesses that have taken a leap in faith regarding the LIVE UNITED mission. They have listened to our story regarding goals, services and outcomes. And in many different ways, our donor pool is lending a helping hand.

United Way has been blessed with a

workplace campaign strategy that raises more than 40 percent of the annual campaign goal. Thus far, five businesses have reported 100 percent employee participation in their workplace campaigns. This sends a clear message that United Way is accomplishing its goals to educate and motivate donors.

Another success includes the "Dine & Donate" events, which involve local restaurants sponsoring United Way and donating a percentage of the proceeds. United Way recently benefited from events hosted by Dairy Queen, Freddy's Frozen Custard and The Cedars Café.

United Way board member Marc Robertson also initiated his support. Each quarter his business, Robertson Chiropractic Center, promotes a local cause and donates a percentage of business income. United Way was the October beneficiary. Robertson's approach goes above and beyond United Way as he offers a helping hand to other organizations. He and his staff are constantly researching community needs and respond by passing dollars forward.

United Way salutes McPherson County businesses for demonstrating the power of collective community impact. May others be inspired to do the same.



Joni Regnier
CVB Director

From the McPherson Convention & Visitors Bureau

Who Are We?

The McPherson CVB, more commonly known as the McPherson Convention & Visitors Bureau, is a department of the city of McPherson that solicits and assists all types of visitors, whether they are attending a convention, touring or just visiting. Our goal is to promote economic growth and build visitor traffic to the area.

Our office is located at 306 N. Main, in the same building as the McPherson Chamber of Commerce & McPherson Main Street. Even though we are separate entities we are all working toward the same goal. Bringing visitors to McPherson is our top priority.

Are you are looking for a place to start your day in McPherson? Or need a place to host your next convention?

Or maybe need help narrowing down the possibilities? You're in luck, because that is what my staff is here to do for you.

What to do—there are plenty of things for individuals and tour groups to see and do in McPherson and the CVB is here to help. Listed are a few of our favorite things: ride on the Trolley, visit the McPherson Opera House, McPherson Museum, Turkey Creek Golf Course, McPherson Waterpark, McPherson College Auto Restoration Program, and any of our retail or specialty shops.

Where to dine—stop in and ask us about our favorite eateries. Pick up a local restaurant guide that includes a location map on the back for your convenience.

Where to stay—We have the latest and most updated information on our local hotels and can help you find the perfect place to stay to make your visit complete.

The funding for the McPherson CVB comes from transient guest tax collected at the hotels in the city of McPherson.

Some guest tax is used for grants to assist local organizers in staging activities aimed at attracting visitors to the area. Grants offered are Marketing, Sports Tournament & Event/Attraction Grants.

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chamber events

November

- 18 **4:00 p.m.** Womens Event @ Chamber
 19 **9:30 a.m.** Chamber Coffee hosted by McPherson County Community Foundation, 206 S. Main
11:30 a.m. Chamber Board @ Chamber
 24 **8:30 a.m.** 2016 Leadership Class in Session
 26-27 Happy Thanksgiving – Office Closed

- 8:30 a.m.** 2016 Leadership Class in Session
10:00 a.m. Ribbon Cutting The Investment Center, 719 N. Main, New Location!
9:30 a.m. Chamber Coffee hosted by McPherson Co. Council on Aging, 926 N. Main
8:30 a.m. 2016 Leadership Class in Session
4:00 p.m. Women's Event @ Chamber
9:30 a.m. Chamber Coffee at Home State Bank, 223 N. Main
12:00 Office Closes at noon Merry Christmas Office Closed
12:00 Office Closes at noon Happy New Year!

December

- 3 **9:30 a.m.** Ribbon Cutting & Chamber Coffee for Peoples Bank and Trust Department new location at 822 N. Main
 8 **7:00 a.m.** Ag Committee @ Perkins

It's Christmas in McPherson! "McPherson where Santa Shops"!

Enjoy all the holiday events and activities sponsored by the McPherson Chamber of Commerce and Main Street Members, as well as the McPherson Convention & Visitors Bureau and McPherson Museum.

Candy Cane Cash worth \$500!

Now-December 31st

Shop at the following participating stores and get registered for \$500 Candy Cane Cash!

- A Few of My Favorite Things—224 N. Main
- ASWestern—102 N. Main
- Artshirt Gear for Sport—211 N. Main
- Brooklyn & Co.—213 N. Main
- Brown's Shoe Fit—118 N. Main
- Clayworks at Disability Support—107 N. Main
- Creative Hairlines Spa & Salon—207 S. Main
- Guys 'N Gals—106 N. Main
- Mattress Haven—310 N. Main
- Nooks & Crannies Floral—113 N. Main
- Shimmerz Tanning Salon—306 S. Main
- Simply Good Overstocks—301 S. Main
- Studio 54 Glass Art—115 N. Main
- Stupka Chiropractic—114 W. Euclid
- The Bookshelf—206 N. Main
- The Cook's Nook—219 N. Main
- The Stone Chimney—1500 E. First
- The Village Geek—116 N. Main
- The Well—101 N. Main
- Twice Told Tales—104 S. Main
- VAAAM Gallery—223 S. Main
- Venable Jewelers—214 N. Main

Cookies with Santa!

(McPherson Walgreens is providing coupons for a FREE photo print at each Cookies with Santa location)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3RD

5:00-6:30 p.m. – McDonald's, 2101 E. Kansas

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10TH

5:00 – 6:30 p.m. – St. Joseph Catholic School, 520 E. Northview

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12TH

9:30 – 11:00 a.m. Simply Good Overstocks, 301 S. Main

2:00-3:30 p.m. – The Village Geek, 116 N. Main

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17TH

5:00-6:30 p.m. – McPherson Health & Rehab, 1601 N. Main (Northview)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19TH

9:30 – 11:00 a.m. – NexTech Wireless, 200 S. Champlin

2:00-3:30 p.m. – The Clayworks, 107 N. Main

FREE Movies!

At The McPherson Opera House – 3:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28TH

"Miracle on 34th Street" (sponsored by McPherson Convention & Visitors Bureau)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6TH

"Where Hope Grows" (sponsored by Clayworks at Disability Supports)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12TH

"Inside Out" (sponsored by Elliott Insurance & Real Estate, The Stone Chimney, Ken Cotton DDS, H & R Block, Ellene McKean & Associates, Save 'N Share)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19TH

"Gremlins" (sponsored by Simply Good Overstocks, McPherson News & Information, Venable Jewelers, Ellene McKean & Associates, Gentiva of McPherson, Artshirt Gear for Sport, MTC & McPherson CVB)

Make a Gingerbread House

Saturday, December 5

1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

FREE at the McPherson Museum, 1111 E. Kansas. (limited to the first 100) (sponsored by the McPherson Convention & Visitors Bureau & Walgreens)

Trolley Light Tours

Public tours December 10, 17, 19,

21 & 22 @ 6:00, 7:00 & 8:00 p.m.

Starting at the McPherson Museum, 1111 E. Kansas. Advanced tickets available for \$5 each at the McPherson Convention & Visitors Bureau, 306 N. Main. Call 620-241-3340 to schedule a private tour.

Mini Main

Saturday, December 5

10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

at the McPherson Community Building, corner of N. Ash & E. Marlin. A children's shopping experience – cookies, crafts, all gifts \$10 and under. Santa will be present (sponsored by Ellene McKean & Associates)

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