

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.

The 2016 Chamber Challenge is scheduled for the week of Monday, March 21-Friday, March 25 in various locations throughout McPherson. There are several opportunities to get involved in the 2016 Chamber Challenge. You can enter a team, sponsor the event, purchase Cash Bash tickets and be a team supporter. Team registration forms are available at the Chamber office. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the Chamber office at 241-3303.

Schedule of the Chamber Challenge

- March 15—deadline 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

Congratulations & Welcome!

Hampton Inn
 200 N. Centennial Drive
 McPherson, KS 67460
 Contact: Kabir Bhakta
 Phone: 316-304-5324

New 73 unit hotel will be opening soon. **Hampton Inn** franchise is of the Hilton brand. It's been rated number 1 in satisfaction under mid-scale hotel brands.

Watch for more information coming soon on the official opening date and all the amenities that will be offered at the newest hotel in McPherson.

McPherson Metals LLC
 1060 W. Woodside
 McPherson, KS 67460
 Contact: Gary Graber
 Phone: 316-706-0279
 Fax: 316-243-4904

McPherson's metal processing specialists is ready to pick up your scrap metal for recycling and processing.

Gerken Rent-All
 1060 W. Kansas Avenue
 McPherson, KS 67460
 Contact: Rusty Gerken
 Jason Baker
 Phone: 620-504-3100
 Fax: 861-884-2400
 Hours: Monday-Friday 8am-5pm
 Saturday 8am-3pm

The Gerken Family is proud to be

servicing the rental industry for the past 13 years. Their goal is to provide their customers with the best equipment for any job and to help customers get the job done right at the best price possible. At **Gerken Rent-All** they offer many other services beside equipment rental. They also sell and fill propane bottles, moving boxes and supplies, and offer torch bottle exchange. **Gerken Rent-All** provides portable toilet rental for construction sites, parties, weddings, church events, etc. They have a couple different types of portable toilets handicapped units, sink units, and regular units. You can find **Gerken Rent-All** in Paola, Ottawa, Louisburg, Overland Park, Gardner, Harrisonville and now in McPherson. They provide service to many areas in Kansas and Missouri. **Gerken Rent-All** rents, sells and services all kinds of equipment.

Three Rings Brewery, LLC
 536 Old US 81 Highway
 McPherson, KS 67460
 Contact: Ian Smith
 Brian Smith
 Phone: 620-386-4709
 Facebook: Three Rings Brewery

In the early 1500's the Smith's 12th great-grandfather Berend Brauer was the mayor and head brewer in Einbeck, Germany. Einbeck beer was a favorite of reformationist & beer lover Martin Luther, who requested a barrel at his wedding,

which Berend gladly provided for him. As a beer lover and home brewer himself, Martin Luther often drank his beer from a grand stein with "three rings" around it. Each ring, respectively stood for the 10 Commandments, the Creed, and the Lord's Prayer. He would often boast that he could encompass all three with ease while drinking beer out of his grand, three-ringed stein.

Three Rings Brewery is a micro-brewery that will revive a 500 year family legacy to bring great beer to great people!

Clean Freaks LLC
 222 N. Chestnut
 McPherson, KS 67460
 Contacts: Justin Richardson
 Greg Nigh
 Phone: 620-755-7305
 620-245-8573
 Facebook: Clean Freaks
 Hours: 8-5 Flexible days & hours

Clean Freaks LLC is a mobile automotive & marine detailing business. **Clean Freaks** specializes in detail and paint protection using Flight Shield products. Greg Nigh and Justin Richardson, owners of **Clean Freaks LLC** can do a simple wash & vacuum or a full detail.

Give them a call to schedule your automotive or marine spring cleaning.

From the McPherson Chamber of Commerce



Jennifer Burch
 Executive Director

just have to find your unique power or ability and exploit it for the greater good. The cape and mask are optional accessories, but a kind heart is essential."

- Robert Clancy

The 2016 Leadership McPherson Class will be celebrating their completion. During the course of the leadership class journey, they have been introduced to several different approaches to leadership, we hope that they have made new and deeper connections with others and have discussed some current community

issues. Each process they learn ties into the next and finally they are provided the opportunity to consolidate all of their learning and apply it towards working together as a "community" on their class project and then into their own lives and communities. We celebrate the commitment that employers and class members make in taking the Leadership McPherson Class journey and look forward to the improvement they make in their own groups and organizations with the skills and friendships they have

gained.

The 2016 Leadership McPherson Class Super Heroes - Brad Bengtson-Home State Bank & Trust, Amy Bower - McPherson Health Care Foundation, Jenna Crain-Wise & Reber, L.C, Eric Duerksen - Hutton Construction, Aaron Mayfield - Sunflower Bank, Kevin McKean - City of McPherson Police Department, Alesia Stout - McPherson Chamber of Commerce and Clinton Terry - McPherson Hospital.

DQ GRILL & CHILL WINNERS

Congratulations to Emprise 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.



JOHN DEERE

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2015 - 2016 Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

President – Dr. Brandon Stupka, Stupka Chiropractic & Wellness Center • President Elect – Adrian Morales, Hess Oil Company
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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 helping 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 day-care 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, Lindsay, 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 attrac-

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 |

March

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|---|--|----|--|
| 1 | 10:30 a.m. Ribbon Cutting for Little Caesars, 319 S. Main – New Owner! | 25 | 5:30 p.m. Chamber Challenge ... Battle of the Stars Award Celebration @ the Best Western Holiday Manor Convention Center, 2211 E. Kansas |
| | 12:00 p.m. Ambassadors @ Chamber | 31 | 9:30 a.m. Chamber Coffee @ Nex Tech Wireless, 200 S. Champlin |
| 3 | 9:30 A.M. Chamber Coffee hosted by WACCC @ TBD | | |
| | 4:00 p.m. Leadership Board of Trustees @ Chamber | | |
| 8 | 7:00 a.m. Ag Committee @ Perkins, 2111 E. Kansas | | |
| | 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

• Excursion to Farmers Market followed by private walking food tour of North Beach

If you are feeling really adventurous ... optional excursions to Alcatraz, Beach Blanket Babylon and many other sights and experiences are available!

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.

\$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

Travel arrangements are made by McPherson Travel Agency.

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