

December 2011

The Chamber

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just happens!

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Welcome to the
Chamber!

It's Christmas in McPherson!

REUSE IT CENTER

1060 West Kansas Avenue
P.O. Box 1062

McPherson, Ks 67460

Phone: 620.245.0122

Website: Coming Soon!

Contacts: LaVon Ediger, Board
Chair Randy Goering, Treasurer
Bill Toews

Hours: Tuesday – noon till 4:00

Thursday – 4:00-8:00 p.m.

Saturday – 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The mission statement speaks clearly to who the ReUse It Center is and what they are about: "As God's stewards, our ministry collects new and used building materials through donation and sells them to the community, sharing God's gifts, serving those in need, and saving earth's resources." ReUse It Center will collect donated surplus building materials from McPherson County and surrounding area residents and contractors. They will also accept appliances, power and hand tools, and hard-side furniture. They will sell these items at reasonable prices, and share the proceeds with organizations which serve those in need, locally and globally. Their local partners who will receive their proceeds include Omega House, Outreach McPherson, Churches United in Ministry, and McPherson Ministerial Alliance. For global relief and development, the proceeds will go to Mennonite Central Committee. All of those working at the ReUse It Center are volunteers. They welcome your prayers, donations, volunteer assistance and your business.

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas . . . now, all we need is snow! There were many shoppers the weekend of the Christmas Holiday Open House (November 5 & 6) in McPherson. The designated weekend brings shoppers to McPherson to buy early gifts and to see what all McPherson has to offer for their gift list.

The Christmas Holiday Open House and Christmas promotion is a Main Street, Chamber & Convention & Visitors partnership of promoting shopping and visiting McPherson for the holiday season. All the marketing & advertising for shopping, movies, Christmas Light Contest, Candy Cane Cash, Trolley Tours, Cookies with Santa could not be possible without the financial support of Main Street & Chamber members, in addition to the marketing grant that is made available from the Convention & Visitors Bureau. Thank you to the following businesses for their support.

2011 Christmas Promotion Supporters & Participants

Mattress Haven, The Stone Chimney, PrairieLand Partners, The Well, Artshirt – Gear for Sport, Peoples Bank & Trust, Venable Jewelers, Brooklyn & Co., The Bookshelf/Hidden Closet, Brown's Shoe Fit, SassyBags, The Cooks Nook, Esther V. Rettig MD, P.A., Graber's Ace Hardware, Clayworks at Disability Supports, Health E-Quip, Cartridge King, Sunbird Dental, Client Centered Counseling, Creative Hairlines Salon & Spa, Integrity Salon & Spa, Johns-Manville, Midway Motors Super Center, Guys 'n Gals, Williams Energy Services, Elliott Insurance, Rinse & Roll Car Wash, Siri Harrell CPA, The Cedars, Sunflower Bank, H & R Block, Ameriprise Financial, CertainTeed, Ellene McKean & Associates, Femco, A5 Western, Hopps Sound & Electric, Health Food Market, Krehbiel's Meat Market & Deli, First Bank Kansas.

Be sure to call in the Chamber at 241-3303 or Main Street at 241-7430 with your address to be part of the Christmas Light Contest.

Shop in McPherson this holiday season and YOU could win \$500 in Candy Cane Cash!

Christmas Schedule

November 26
3:00 p.m. "Polar Express" movie at the McPherson Opera House (FREE)

December 1
Participating stores open till 8:00 p.m.
6:00-7:30 p.m. Cookies with Santa at The Bookshelf/Hidden Closet, 206 N. Main, FREE photos by Walgreens

December 3
Mini Main, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the McPherson Community Building (sponsored by Main Street), shopping for kids, crafts & cookies with Santa (sponsored by Ellene McKean & Associates)
FREE photos by Walgreens
3:00 p.m. Dr. Seuss, "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" at the McPherson Opera House (FREE)

December 8
Participating stores open till 8:00 p.m.
6:00-7:30 p.m. Cookies with Santa at Midway Motors Super Center, 2075 E. Kansas, FREE photos by Walgreens
Christmas Light Public Trolley Tours – 6:00, 7:00 & 8:00 p.m. from the McPherson Opera House (\$5 advanced tickets at CVB -306 N. Main or 1-800-324-8022)

December 10
9:00-10:30 a.m. Cookies with Santa at ClayWorks, 107 N. Main, FREE photos by Walgreens

December 11
1:30-3:00 p.m. Cookies with Santa at Siri Harrell, CPA at the McPherson Opera House, FREE photos by Walgreens
3:00 p.m. "The Muppet Christmas Carol" movie at the McPherson Opera House (FREE)

December 15
Participating stores open till 8:00 p.m.
6:00-7:30 p.m. Cookies with Santa at Creative Hairlines Salon & Spa, 207 S. Main, FREE photos by Walgreens
Christmas Light Public Trolley Tours – 6:00, 7:00 & 8:00 p.m. from the McPherson Opera House (\$5 advanced tickets at CVB -306 N. Main or 1-800-324-8022)

December 17
9:00-10:30 a.m. Cookies with Santa at SassyBags, 302 N. Main, FREE photos by Walgreens
3:00 p.m. – "A Dog Named Christmas" movie at the McPherson Opera House (FREE)
Christmas Light Public Trolley Tours – 6:00, 7:00 & 8:00 p.m. from the McPherson Opera House (\$5 advanced tickets at CVB -306 N. Main or 1-800-324-8022)

December 22
Participating stores open till 8:00 p.m.
6:00-7:30 p.m. Cookies with Santa at The Well, 101 N. Main, FREE photos by Walgreens
Christmas Light Public Trolley Tours – 6:00, 7:00 & 8:00 p.m. from the McPherson Opera House (\$5 advanced tickets at CVB -306 N. Main or 1-800-324-8022)

Private Christmas Light Trolley Tours are available by calling 1-800-324-8022

From Chamber Director

I want to thank the McPherson area businesses that support the Chamber organization and the events & activities. We are so very fortunate that we live and work in an area that recognizes the importance of civic duty and engagement. If one were to stop and look at all the events, programs and activities

that happen in our area, you would be surprised, it is mostly non-profits. Think about all the volunteer hours that are given to the good of the organization. We live in an area that values and understands the nature of giving of oneself. Many businesses also recognize that it is vital for a community to have civic engagement and encour-

age their employees to be involved. If we all give a little of ourselves, then it is not left up to the same few to carry the load. There is a lot to gain in giving of your time and talent.

There are many opportunities to serve in the McPherson area. I encourage you find an organization, a committee and

get involved and connected to where you live and work.

Wherever the holidays take you, it is my hope that you are surrounded with the love of family and friends. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Jennifer Burch
Executive Director

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2011 - 2012 Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

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 Mission: to work as an organization of individuals, businesses and professionals to enhance the economic, civic and cultural interests of the McPherson area.

Chamber events Nov./Dec. 2011

November	December
17 9:30 a.m. Chamber Coffee hosted by the McPherson Healthcare Foundation Celebrating 25 years 1016 N. Main 11:30 a.m. Chamber Board @ Chamber office	1 9:30 a.m. Chamber Coffee hosted by McPherson Hospital Volunteers, 1000 Hospital Drive 12:00 noon GoMcPherson Committee @ TBD
20 3:00-5:00 p.m. Leadership Board facilitation for McPherson College	6 12:00 noon Ambassadors @ Chamber 4:00 p.m. YP Mac @ Chamber
24 Happy Thanksgiving Office Closed	8 9:30 a.m. Chamber Coffee hosted by Nation Pizza, 1144 Bridger Court 5:30 p.m. YP Mac Holiday Social at Amics, 204 N. Main
25 Happy Thanksgiving Office Closed	9 11:30 a.m. YP Mac Legislative Lunch @ The Well,
	101 N. Main 7:00 a.m. Agriculture Committee @ Perkins, 2111 E. Kansas 12:00 noon Community Development @ Chamber 9:30 a.m. Chamber Coffee hosted by Kansas Secured Title Co., 207 N. Main 9:30 a.m. Chamber Coffee hosted by Mt. Hope Sanctuary, 303 N. Walnut 12:00 noon Chamber office closes 24 Christmas Eve 25 Merry Christmas 26 Chamber office closed

Monsanto Offers Grow Communities Grant

Kansas farmers have an opportunity to help with their favorite non-profit organization by signing up to win \$2,500 through America's Farmers Grow Communities, sponsored by the Monsanto Fund. One farmer in each of the Kansas's 88 participating counties will win.

In Kansas, the Monsanto Fund will invest a total of \$220,000 toward nonprofit organization in rural communities. Now through November 30, farmers can apply online at www.growcommunities.com or call 877-267-3332 to apply by phone. A \$1 donation will be made to local United Way Chapters for each farmer who signs up, to further enhance the investment in rural communities. Farmers who meet program eligibility requirements may enter regardless of involvement with previous Grow Communities programs. One winner will be selected at random from each of the 88 Kansas counties and the Monsanto Fund will announce winning farmers and recipient nonprofits in January 2012.

McPherson County is eligible for the program.

Savannah Women's Trip a Success

Forty seven women travelled to Savannah, Georgia on the Women's Chamber trip recently. The trip was organized by the Women's Event Committee: Debbie Sheets, Laura Vogts, Nadine Spence, Ardie Streit, Sharon Keeler and travel agent representative Cindy Krehbiel from McPherson Travel. There was a great balance of organized group activities as well as free time to explore the history, and sightseeing options. Travelers attended a presentation at the Savannah Chamber & Convention & Visitors Bureau office located in a historic bank building. A presentation was made by the first female Savannah Chamber President Dianna Morrison serving in 1997. Their organization has 44 employees and 49 board members that oversee economic development of Savannah that is primarily tourism and industry.

Chamber Membership Window Decals Being Delivered

To bring recognition to Chamber members, the Chamber board approved the printing and purchase of window/door decals that are to be displayed in the business window or door. The decal signifies that this business is a proud member of the McPherson Chamber of Commerce and is a member in good standing for September-2011 to August 2012. We encourage you to support the businesses that support your Chamber of Commerce.

This Month's DQ Winner

Congratulations to Dr. Brandon Trost and his staff at Integrated Health & Wellness Center, 1319 E. First Street. Thank you to Roger and Karen Horn of DQ McPherson for providing the monthly DQ Cake for McPherson Chamber members.

McPherson Main Street Report:



Ann Engel
Main Street Executive Director

Main Street Report: It was great to see so many people attend the recent Town Hall meeting at City Hall, and I thought some very valid concerns were raised regarding the recent 3-lane changes on North Main. I think it is very important for people to voice their opinions on issues and I was especially glad to hear details and solutions expressed, instead of just "I hate it" or "I love it." Since that meeting, the Mayor has formed a task force and I will be one of the people representing the Downtown area regarding the possibility of extending the three-lane next summer from First to Kansas when Main Street is scheduled for a Mill and Overlay. Ironically, our Design & ER Committees have been working on polling the Downtown on this topic and more, so we were very pleased to be a part of the task force. This is a great opportunity for business owners, employees and everyone who uses the Downtown to voice their opinion and include statistics, and/or specific examples, suggestions or solutions to support either a yes or no of any possible changes. As a matter of fact, I think this is also a perfect time to re-visit the timing of the stoplights and the consideration of whether we really need lights at every intersection. We are reaching a point where the age of the stoplights becomes a

costly repair issue due to availability of replacement parts, and the cost of replacing the antiquated pole style stoplights with the overhead must-arm lights is exorbitant. While we're at it, what are some other ideas to make the Downtown more pedestrian friendly? What about ideas for the planters and the Plaza fountain that needs major repair work? What about the community building and its future? These are all issues that we (Main Street Design & ER committees) are working on and we want to hear from you. So take a minute to really study the Downtown area, look at the traffic, the parking (including extended length vehicles), the stoplights and the overall design elements of the area. What would make it better (or worse) and why? What solutions or suggestions do you have and please include examples and/or statistics to help back up your comments. You can call me at 620-241-7430, fax me at 620-241-8708, e-mail me at mainstreet@mcphersonks.org, stop by or mail 306 N Main, P.O. Box 383, or face book McPherson Main Street and post your comments there. In addition, the members of Design and ER will be personally contacting Downtown businesses to make sure that everyone is aware and all voices are heard. Stepping down from the soapbox, the Board of Directors and I would like to take this opportunity to extend our wishes to you and your families for a Happy Thanksgiving. Thank you for your continued support.

Ann Engel
Director

From The United Way



Brenda Sales
Director

It's Not About Meeting a Goal; It's About Meeting a Need
 When people ask me how things are going in the United Way of McPherson County, they are most interested in how we are coming at meeting our campaign goal.
 How red is the United Way thermometer?

velop, coordinate, and facilitate new programs to meet gaps or emerging needs.

Like all investors, our donors want to be sure that they are getting a good return on their philanthropic investment. We can assure them they are. We carefully review agencies' programs for proposed impacts; we look at financial and governance information; we require mid-year and year-end reports. All these measures ensure that the funds we invest on our donors' behalf are making the greatest impact that they can.

Our 2011 goal is \$215,000. We currently have received \$147,119 in pledges and donations, which is 66% of that goal.

But it's not about meeting that goal; it's about how those funds will enable us to meet community needs. We invite you to join us in meeting that need. For more information or to make a donation: www.unitedwaymcpherson.org.

Brenda Sales
Director

From Convention & Visitors Bureau



Anne Hassler
Director
Convention & Visitors Bureau

Make Some Holiday Memories in McPherson
 It's time to make a holiday memory this December in McPherson. I love that what my predecessor Judy Casey began with the trolley three years ago has continued on with our annual holiday light tours. Thursdays Dec. 8, 15 and 22 plus Saturday Dec. 17 we will have three nightly trolley tours of all the fabulous holiday light displays. Tickets are just \$5 and the year-end goal can be bought in advance at the Convention and Visitors Bureau, 306 N. Main St. We still have times available for

private tours as well, just call the office, 241-3540.

We've added a fun twist with a trolley coloring contest for kids 12 and under. A prize of a one-hour trolley rental for each age group will be awarded. That means the winners could take their whole family or class on a trolley ride. Talk about a great memory. Another fun way to celebrate the holiday is with McPherson Main Street's Chamber holiday movies at the Opera House. The first one is Polar Express Nov. 26 so if you have family in town, what a great break from the leftovers and football games. Take your family and enjoy a holiday movie.

Ann Hassler
Director

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