

The Chamber @WORK

*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!

Fresh Ideas Management, LLC
At McPherson College
1600 E. Euclid
McPherson, KS 67460
Contact: Martin Porter, Director of Dining Services
Phone: 620-242-0460
Web: www.freshideasfood.com/mcphersondining

Fresh Ideas is a dining services company that specializes in providing food for personalized events, functions and programs. They are proud to be the dining services partner of McPherson College and are excited to get involved in the community. Martin Porter joined the McPherson community as the Director of Dining Services. He is an executive chef and looks forward to bringing innovative and creative ideas to the College and McPherson.

Fresh Ideas is looking to be the McPherson community's area go-to caterer.

McPherson College is First Ideas first Kansas Location.

Treasure Chest Guns Shop/TCGS, LLC
1100 W. Kansas
McPherson, KS 67460
Contact: Steve Sechler, Austin Sechler
Phone: 620-241-4022
Fax: 620-241-3830
Web: www.tcguns.com

Treasure Chest Gun Shop is very excited to join the McPherson Chamber of Commerce; their store is located at 1100 W. Kansas Avenue in McPherson, Kansas. They offer the sale of retail firearms, ammunition, gun safes and shooting/hunting accessories. In the store you will find a very knowledgeable staff with many years of experience in the firearm industry. They are excited to announce that they are in the process of building an indoor gun range that will offer various classes (safety, CCL, Hunter's Education, etc) as well as a safe and family friendly environment to shoot.

Loan Program Assists in Entrepreneurship McPherson County E-Loan Program Update

The McPherson County Entrepreneurship Loan Fund has proven to be an asset to the growth of business start ups and expansions. "Since becoming a partner with Network Kansas and administrator of the loan program, the McPherson Chamber of Commerce has made a significant contribution to the support of business startups and entrepreneurship activity in McPherson County," said Jennifer Burch. "The E-Community Loan fund pool was generated by the sale of tax credits, allowing individuals to offset their tax liability while creating economic opportunities for the county and is only a program available to communities of 50,000 population or less."

The program works like this: Example: Assume an applicant needs a total of \$60,000 - project must be located within McPherson County. Also assume the applicant is providing \$10,000 of their own capital. Of the remaining \$50,000 needed, the E-Community can provide no greater than 60% of the gap (in this case the funds could be no more than \$30,000 of the \$50,000 needed). The other 40% minimum (in this case \$20,000 minimum) must come from a bank, financial institution and/or other public funding sources. "This is not a direct loan fund, the Chamber is a partner in the investment of entrepreneurship and in our county's economic future," added Burch. Since the inception of the McPherson County Entrepreneurship Loan Fund program in 2011, there has been a total of 16 loans (15 in City of McPherson 1 in Lindsborg) totaling over \$573,763, towards projects of \$2.1 million creating 95 jobs.

For more information contact the McPherson Chamber of Commerce at 306 N. Main, call 241-3303.

A Hiring Tool for Employers

KansasWORKReady!

Kansas Workforce Centers offer employers a tool to assist in hiring employees. The Kansas WORKReady! Certificate provides concrete proof of job seekers foundational skills and is provided at no cost to the employer or job seeker.

This assessment uses the nationally recognized WorkKeys system from ACT to verify skills in reading, locating information and mathematics and certifies candidates at four levels: Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze.

For more information on hiring WORKReady! Candidates, please call (877) 509-6757. For additional information on WORKReady! Go to www.kansasworks.com and click on the link on the left.

ONE ON ONE FREE BUSINESS COUNSELING

Free & Confidential One-on One Business Counseling Available
The Kansas Small Business Development Center will have an Outreach Center Consultant at the McPherson Chamber of Commerce office located at 306 N. Main from 9:00 to 4:00 on the following days:

Monday's

July 14, August 11, September 8, October 13, November 10, December 8.

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.

McPherson to Benefit From Housing Tax Credits

The Kansas Housing Resources Corporation (KHRC) has approved 17 Kansas development properties, one to be in McPherson. Through this program McPherson will receive tax credits through the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program to build a 45 unit complex.

The low-moderate income housing complex will be located on Genesis Street in the area around the water tower on the south side of East Avenue A in Barnstormers Addition. The complex will consist of a mix of duplex and triplex units with two and three bedrooms, all electric. Rent ranges are estimated to be between \$515-\$695 per month. An onsite office and a clubhouse are included in the plans. A tentative August groundbreaking is scheduled with a completion in May of 2015, pending any delays.

Congratulations to the McPherson Housing Coalition!



Jennifer Burch
Executive Director

From the McPherson Chamber of Commerce

Why You Should Consider Joining the Chamber of Commerce

Many businesses fail to tap into a valuable resource that's firmly established in their community and dedicated to promoting the entrepreneurial spirit. That resource is your local McPherson Chamber of Commerce. According to the ACCE (The American Chamber of Commerce Executives), Chamber missions generally focus on these primary goals:

- Build and promote communities to attract residents, visitors and investors
- Work to ensure prosperity in a pro-business climate
- Represent the employer community
- Enhance "well-functioning networks" of businesses
- "Chambers share a common ambition for the sustained prosperity of their community/area, built on thriving employers," the ACCE notes. "Most are ardent proponents of the free market system, resisting attempts to overly burden private sector enterprise and investment."

If you haven't yet contemplated joining your local Chamber of Commerce, here are some compelling reasons to take action:

- Referral Opportunities . As a Chamber member, you have access to other members' contact information. All Chamber members are listed in a comprehensive directory, which means other businesses in need of your products or services can easily find and reach out to you. If they like the way you do business, they're often happy to refer you to other customers. Also, residents of the community and prospective residents often consult the Chamber regarding products, services and businesses.
- Networking events. Most Chambers host special events and programs for members to connect with other businesses in their area. These events represent great opportunities to expand your existing network and to get to know people who may benefit your business in the future. Many Chambers also have committees, where you can serve and increase the range of your network.
- Enhanced credibility. Everyone knows about the Chamber of Commerce, either through its national presence or the work it does in the areas where people live. These Chambers have a reputation for working to improve the quality of life and business in these communities. By becoming a member, this positive branding works for your business as well. Consumers overwhelmingly believe that being a Chamber mem-

ber means your business is stable and trustworthy, key elements that factor into any purchasing decision.

- Mentoring opportunities. Are you seeking a mentor to help you develop your business? Or are you interested in serving as a mentor to another up and coming entrepreneur? These types of connections are frequently available through Chamber of Commerce membership.
- Great exposure. If you're looking to build brand-awareness - and what small business isn't? - various Chamber services can help make it happen. Most Chambers offer newsletters which spread the word about local businesses. The same holds true for Chambers' websites, Facebook and other social media venues. You can also get involved as a sponsor of local civic events, further enhancing community goodwill.

The McPherson Chamber of Commerce is all that is mentioned in the article and MORE! If you would like to learn more about how the Chamber can benefit your business, please feel free to stop by our office located at 306 N. Main or give me a call at 241-3303

Jennifer Burch, Executive Director

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2013 - 2014 Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

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chamber events

June

- 19 9:30a Chamber Coffee hosted by Robertson Chiropractic Center, 209 N. Main
- 26 9:30a Chamber Coffee hosted by 2013 Leadership McPherson Class @ 400 E. Kansas
- 11:30a Chamber Board Retreat at the McPherson Opera House

July

- 1 12:00 Ambassadors meeting @ Chamber
- 2 7a When Pigs Fly @ Perkins
- 3 9:30a Chamber Coffee at McPherson Co. Council on Aging, 926 N. Main
- 8 7a Ag Committee @ Perkins

- 10 9:30a Chamber Coffee & Rib bon Cutting @ Kansas Certification & Testing Center, 1207 S. Main.
- 5p McPherson Health Care Foundation Business After Hours
- 16 4p Women's Event Committee @ Chamber
- 17 9:30a Chamber Coffee @ OPEN
- 24 9:30a Chamber Coffee @ OPEN
- 10:30 Lakeside Plaza Board @ Chamber
- 11:30 Chamber Board @ Chamber
- 29 5:30p Rural Appreciation @ 4-H Ground, 600 W. Woodside
- 31 9:30a Chamber Coffee @ OPEN



From the United Way of McPherson County

Have you ever wondered why some sexual assault victims never report incidents? Are there safe shelters for victims searching to escape their situations? Can the elderly be the victims of sexual abuse?

Anne Kirchner
Director

On Tuesday, June 24, you will have the opportunity to learn the answers to these questions and much more. All McPherson and Marion County residents are invited to participate in a COMMUNITY DIALOGUE addressing sexual assault and domestic violence issues. The event is intended to allow individuals to speak candidly about their concerns, learn more about the local referral system and explore ways to improve crisis intervention programs.

The event is sponsored by United Way of McPherson County, the Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Center and the Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence. An informal breakfast buffet begins at 8:30 a.m. at the Bank of America Building - 5th Floor followed by the discussion from 9:00-11:00 a.m. Reservations are encouraged by contacting the United Way office at 620-241-5152.

Community conversations are the foundation for United Way to help drive community change. While the concept of talking about sexual assault and domestic violence can be intimidating, it's an important step to take in order to identify meaningful solutions. One must understand what sexual assault and domestic violence is. One must enrich their knowledge about local advocacy services. One must know how to utilize the local referral system. One must express a voice to help drive community change.

By joining the conversation you will learn how sexual assault and domestic violence situations affect us all. And you will be empowered to help your community send a message to abusers that sexual assault and domestic violence is unacceptable and intolerable.

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 Hall's Culligan Water, 401 N. Oak. We hope they enjoy their special treat!



From the McPherson Convention & Visitors Bureau

When it rains, it pours. This holds true not only of our weather lately but the slate of activities going on in McPherson. Trying to keep track of all that is going on and then communicating it to the general public is a big task this time of year as activities abound for all ages. One way I've tried to reach families is to send out a newsletter with every McPherson student. The "No Excuse to Be Bored" News received positive feedback. Another effort was to start a group on Facebook called McPherson Mother and Child where we share free or inexpensive family activities in the McPherson area. We're up to 136

Anne Hassler
CVB Director

members but we can always add more (fathers, grandparents, aunts and uncles welcome too).

Still I'd like to reach more people in and around McPherson. So I created an on-line weekly newsletter, the McPherson News, summing up what activities will take place in the near future. I'll start with family-friendly activities but I want to expand to all types of news releases and information. There will also be a McPherson News Facebook page where news is added as received. The CVB also maintains Cox Channel 13 and we can really help people get their word out and make their events successful. Add us to your news release list.

If you have news you would like the CVB to help you spread, send it to cvb@mcphersonks.org (putting NEWS before your subject will help greatly), call me at 241-3340 or mail it to CVB, PO Box 616, McPherson, KS 67460.

A HUGE Thank to the Tartan Turkey Golf Tournament Supporters!

Special contributors to the annual fund raising event include: **Scott's Hometown Poods** for providing delicious cinnamon rolls for the Continental Breakfast provided to all the golfers and volunteers; Super awesome lunch prepared and served by **Knackies Meats & Sweets**; **Adding great incentive to the rounds is Midway Motors** for sponsoring the Hole in One Prizes and finally **Gary Hess of Edward Jones** for putting money in the Competitive Play Jackpot.

Volunteers & Tartan Turkey Committee Members

Tracy & Cam Sterling, Adrian Morales, Jaymie Rothrock, Jenny Lang, Gena Strathman, Marie Wheaton, Corey Hoover, Dell Reese, Brandon Trost, Ryan Trost, Gary Hess, James Nelson, Mary Steffes, Ardie Streit, John Hastert, Chet Lang, Scott Seier, Mark Moffitt, Tom Saffel, Bret McClendon & Michele Cullen.

\$250 ACE Sponsors

Mattress Haven, Mid Kansas Coop, Farmers State Bank, Home State Bank & Trust, Farmers Alliance Mutual Insurance, First Bank Kansas, Wichita Mid-Continent Airport, National Cooperative Refinery Association,

\$150 EAGLE Sponsors

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Golf Ball Sponsors & Other Donations

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Winners of the Drawings

- 4 KC Royals Baseball Tickets - Chuck Singleton
- Kindle Fire HD from MTC - Ann Engel
- Men's Stainless Steel Bracelet from Venable Jewelers - Gary Eberhart
- 32" Vizio TV & Roku Streaming Stick from Walmart - Chet Buchman
- 4 Rounds of Golf at Nicklaus Golf Club at LionsGate - Pat LeValley
- 3 Rounds of Golf with Tom Saffel at Prairie Dunes - Chris Akers
- Great Wolf Lodge Package - Corey Hoover
- YETI Cooler from Hopp's Sound & Electric - Tracy Sterling

Local Businesses Recognized by Department of Commerce

The Kansas Department of Commerce has named 24 Regional Business Excellence Award winners and 76 Merit Award winners as part of Business Appreciation Month, the Department's annual celebration of Kansas businesses and their contributions to their communities and the state economy.

The McPherson Chamber of Commerce, McPherson Main Street, McPherson Industrial Development Co. and McPherson County Small Business Development partner each year to make nominations for businesses in the four categories: manufacturing/distribution, service, retail and hospital/non-profit. This year the following were nominated and are awarded the Merit Award; **ReUse It Center, The Village Geek and Piping Technology.**

- The five finalists are:
- Benefit Management Inc. (Great Bend)
 - Galaxy Technologies (Winfield)
 - Geary Community Hospital (Junction City)
 - Grandstand Glassware and Apparel (Lawrence)
 - LifeTeam (Newton)

"The businesses honored during Business Appreciation Month have made outstanding contributions to our economy and their communities," Kansas Commerce Secretary Pat George said. "These businesses are investing and hiring in Kansas and as a result our state is enjoying strong job growth and a vibrant economy."

Save the Dates!

Here are some events that the Chamber will be hosting coming up and more details will be announced soon!

July 29

Rural Appreciation Hamburger Feed, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. on the 4-H grounds located at 600 W. Woodside.

August 22 & 23

When Pigs Fly BBQ Contest & Fly In, McPherson Airport

September 16

Chamber Celebration, A Night at the Museum, McPherson Museum

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