

March 2014

# The Chamber @WORK

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most people think  
just happens!*

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## WELCOME TO THE CHAMBER!

**McPherson County Council on Aging**  
926 N. Main, Suite #B  
McPherson, KS 67460  
Contacts: Terry Bolte, Ruth Cox, Lori Hager-Johnson  
Phone: 620-241-4383  
Fax: 620-241-4304

The McPherson County Council on Aging is dedicated to supporting senior citizens through a diversified service structure intended to strengthen individuals' capabilities to remain in their homes, and respective communities while maintaining dignity and self-determination. Specific assistance is generated through eight senior centers and one senior coordinator within McPherson County. Examples of basic services supported include transportation, tax preparation assistance, foot care clinics, flu shot clinics, congregate meals, physical fitness classes, etc.

**Prairie Landworks Inc.**  
P.O. Box 431, 861 Vanguard Street  
McPherson, KS 67460  
Contacts: Scott Seirer, Tom Saffel  
Phone: 620-504-5049  
Fax: 620-504-6499  
Web: www.prairie-landworks.com

Prairie Landworks originated on January 14, 2012. After two successful years and now 9 full time employees, Prairie Landworks continues to leave its mark in several fields including Land Surveying, Professional Engineering, Best Practices, Industrial Services and Project Management & Consulting.

At Prairie Landworks, their focus is on finite details sets us apart from the competition. Working with Prairie Landworks is like having an engineering department within your walls.

## Thank You for your Membership Renewals

The following is a list of members (from 1/18/14 to 2/14/14) who support the work the Chamber does on their behalf as well as the betterment of the McPherson community and area. We encourage you to support them! Walgreen's, Health E-Quip, Auto Customs Collision Repair. Visit [www.mcphersonchamber.org](http://www.mcphersonchamber.org) for a complete listing of our members.

## Agriculture Future of America Scholarship Applications Due

The McPherson Chamber of Commerce Agriculture Committee is partners with Agriculture Future of America to offer a leader and academic scholarship to graduating high school seniors pursuing a four-year degree in an agriculture-related. The award includes an academic scholarship as well as sponsorship to enter AFA's Leader Development Programs which provide benefit throughout the college career.

Since 2001 proceeds from the When Pigs Fly BBQ Contest & Fly In have provided 17 academic scholarships amounting to \$45,785. As well as 7 leadership conference sponsorships amounting to \$7,000.

Scholarship Requirements Include:

- Passion & commitment toward agriculture's future
- Minimum of 3.0 GPA
- Pursuing a four-year degree in agriculture
- Completion of application and interview process
- Full participate in the AFA Leaders Conference in the fall semester of freshman year.
- McPherson County student
- Due date March 10, 2014

Application information is available at all McPherson County high school counselor and/or Ag instructor. Applications are available online at [www.agfuture.org](http://www.agfuture.org), or contact Jennifer at the McPherson Chamber of Commerce at 620-241-3303.

## McPherson's Future Essentials: Housing and Roads

McPherson Industrial Development Co., GoMcPherson, McPherson Chamber of Commerce and the City of McPherson invite you to a lunch presentation.

**When:** Friday, February 28, 2014  
**Time:** 11:00 a.m. Jason VanSickle, J. Van Sickle & Company of Wichita, Understanding McPherson's Housing Needs 12:30 p.m. Kansas Department of Transportation, Representative Update on transportation issues, locally & throughout the State of Kansas  
**Where:** NCRA Fire Station & Training Facility, 2000 Main Street  
**Cost:** \$10.00 per person, lunch catered by Knackies

Reservations are required by Tuesday, February 25 by calling the Chamber at 241-3303 or email [chamber@mcphersonks.org](mailto:chamber@mcphersonks.org).



### From the McPherson Chamber of Commerce

I can see the sun shining through my office window and finally there is a blue sky. But I feel a gray cloud that is looming over our State of Kansas. I have always been proud about being a Kansan and do my best to help others embrace our great state. Recently, there has been a flurry of news stories, Facebook postings, newspaper articles and emails regarding HB #2453. This bill has passed

through the House and will be voted on this afternoon in the Senate. If passed, I do not see the positive that would come from this, and our state would suffer because of the negative that it promotes.

It saddens me that this bill has even entered the legislative process. Our legislators have had to spend time and energy that could have been directed on addressing challenges that would not separate us.

"It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept and celebrate those differences." - Audre Lorde

## One Shot Seminars Announced

The McPherson Chamber of Commerce and Hutchinson Community College - McPherson Campus once again have created several classes that will be of assistance to our business members.

### Using Your iPad for Business

Wednesday, March 19  
11:30 to 1:00 (Bring your own lunch)  
\$35.00 Chamber Members  
\$50.00 Non Members  
Reservation deadline 3/17/14

### Social Media: Marketing with Instagram and Pinterest

Thursday, April 24  
11:30 to 1:00 (Bring your own lunch)  
\$35.00 Chamber Members  
\$50.00 Non Members  
Reservation deadline 4/23/14

### Multi-Generational Workplaces: From Boomers to Millennials

Thursday, May 22  
11:30 to 1:00 (Bring your own lunch)  
\$35.00 Chamber Members  
\$50.00 Non Members  
Reservation deadline 5/20/14

Reservations are required by calling the Chamber at 241-3303. All classes must be paid for prior to class start date.

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# 2013 - 2014 Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

President- Brandon Trost, Integrated Health & Wellness Center  
 President Elect- Gena Strathman, First Bank Kansas

Treasurer- Jaymie Rothrock, Swindoll, Janzen, Hawk & Loyd • Past President- Dell Reese, Dirt Cheap Banners

Directors: Chad Clark, McPherson Healthcare Foundation, Troy Short, Hospira, Corey Hoover, Midway Motors, Ted Odle, Home State Bank & Trust, Andy Elliot, Elliott Insurance & Real Estate, Gina Venable, Venable Jewelers, Bred McClendon, UDS #418 and Michelle Cullen, Welco Services.

## chamber events

### January

**22nd** 4p Women's Event @ Chamber  
**23rd** 9:30a Chamber Coffee hosted by Next Element Consulting @ The Cedars, 1021 Cedars Drive  
 10:30a Lakeside Plaza Board @ Chamber  
 11:30a Chamber Board @ Chamber  
**24th** 6:30a Farm Forum @ Perkins  
**30th** 9:30a Chamber Coffee @ Patriot Pawn, 2000 E. Kansas  
 12:45p Advanced Excel @ HCC - McPherson, 2208 E. Kansas

### February

**1** 9:00a Legislative Coffee @ The Well, 101 N. Main  
**4** 12noon Ambassadors @ Chamber  
**5** 12noon Leadership Board of Trustees @ Chamber  
**6** 9:30a Chamber Coffee hosted by Henry Construction  
 12:45p Advanced Excel @ HCC - McPherson, 2208 E.

Kansas  
 5:15p Welcome New Comers & Friends @ Chamber  
 7:00a Agriculture Committee @ Perkins  
 12noon Community Development @ Chamber  
**13** 9:30a Chamber Coffee hosted by Kansas Secured Title, 207 N. Main  
 12:45p Advanced Excel @ HCC-McPherson, 2208 E. Kansas.  
**20** 9:30a Chamber Coffee hosted by MCOS & Cartridge King of Kansas, 2109 Industrial Drive  
 12:45p Advanced Excel @ HCC-McPherson, 2208 E. Kansas  
**26** 4:00p Women's Event @ Chamber  
**27** 9:30a Chamber Coffee hosted by McPherson Area Human Resource Professionals@ BPU, 401 W Kansas St, 3rd Floor  
 11:30a Chamber Board @ Chamber  
 12:45p Advanced Excel @HCC-McPherson, 2208 E. Kansas



*From the United Way of McPherson County*

"Wishing you a year with new peace, new hopes, new horizons and new promises..." Upon reading this New Year's greeting I received from a friend, I began to smile as I thought about the potential of opportunity for McPherson County during 2014.

**Anne Kirchner**  
Director

United Way of McPherson County has joined a group whose focus is to bring a health care clinic to our community, specifically to serve low-income families. The initial planning meeting was impactful as more than 25 McPherson County representatives composed of healthcare providers, public officials, non-profit directors and others engaged in meaningful conversation.

The energetic meeting included information from the Big View Team, a committee associated with Circles

of McPherson County. They shared their vision for adequate, accessible and affordable health care. Their two-year study with other community health care facilities that serve low-income families has provided the inspiration to bring similar services to McPherson County.

The meeting ended with all participants eager to assist. An executive committee was formed to explore the possibility of partnering with an already established facility to bring a satellite clinic to McPherson County. The committee was efficient as they presented their initial findings and recommendations at a meeting four weeks later.

As the large group convened once again it was clear this mission was important and, despite the challenges and ambitious goals, the room was filled with vigorous support. I encourage residents of McPherson County to learn more about the process and work together to bring a much needed health care facility to our community.

Challenges include identifying a project solicitor, locating a building site, completing strategic fundraising and meeting aggressive project deadlines. The new year is full of possibilities, and McPherson County has the opportunity to embark on a journey that will provide families with much needed access to affordable health care.

## Chamber Academy Class Schedule

The McPherson Chamber of Commerce and Hutchinson Community College -McPherson Campus once again has assembled several classes that will be of assistance in all business sectors.

### Advanced Excel (5 sessions)

Thursdays - January 30, February 6, 13, 20 & 27  
 12:45 to 3:45  
 \$200.00 Chamber Members  
 \$250.00 Non Chamber Members  
 Reservation deadline 1/28/14

### Using Your iPad for Business

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### 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 **Central Kansas Foundation, 107 W. Marlin**. We hope they enjoy their special treat!

Thank you to Karen & Roger Horn for providing this opportunity for our Chamber members.

## Candy Cane Cash Christmas Promotion

Each year the McPherson Chamber of Commerce and McPherson Main Street promote McPherson businesses with a joint Holiday promotion. The promotion is kicked off with The Snowball Drop Open House Weekend, advertising through TV, radio and print, Cookies with Santa, Free movies at the Opera House, Strolling Carolers (Thank you - McPherson Childrens Arts Council Choir, Elyria Christian School, and Sounds of Heartland), and Candy Cane Cash. Participants in the promotion must be members of either the Chamber or Main Street and pay a fee to cover the expense of the promotion. In addition, the Convention and Visitors Bureau provides a grant to be used towards marketing the events to assist in drawing visitors into McPherson.

Number of Registration Slips	Year	Participating Businesses	Communities In Kansas	Cities out Of State	Total Sales
6,180	2013	23	102	41	\$309,000
3,965	2012	20	81	13	\$198,250

Congratulations to Cheryl Gassie, a teacher at Elyria Christian School, who was the lucky winner of the \$500 in Candy Cane Cash.



**Anne Hassler**  
CVB Director

### From the McPherson Convention & Visitors Bureau

Make plans to attend the 2014 Women's Show

I don't know about you, but this cold weather can take a hike. I heard on the news the cold is due to the polar vortex that's come down from Canada. Sounds ominous! Wherever it came from, I'm getting a little stir crazy being stuck indoors. If you're feeling the same way, I have the perfect solution - our 2014 Women's Show, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday Feb. 22 at The Cedars Conference Center.

This is the third year we've organized a women's show and this year we're saluting working women. By work I mean traditional workforce and those who work at home to keep their families running

smoothly, and especially those who do both.

The women's show will feature Michaeline Chance-Reay, a Kansas Humanities Council speaker who will speak about The Harvey Girls' Service with Style.

Vendors will be available to talk about health, finances, hobbies, fashion, families and more with many giving demonstrations or offering a hands-on activity. It will be a chance to learn something new and keep your brain working during these cold grey months. Lunch will be available, shopping, door prizes and entertainment.

Tickets are just \$2 and go on sale at the CVB, 306 N. Main St. and participating vendors Feb. 3. Be listening to KBBE for ticket giveaways in February.

Stay warm and I'll see you at the women's fair!



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