

# The Chamber Business Journal

September 2018

*Doing what most people think just happens!*

306 N. Main, McPherson, Kansas 67460 • Phone: 620-241-3303 • www.mcphersonchamber.org • Visit us on Facebook

## Congratulations & Welcome to the Chamber!

### FAIRFIELD INN & SUITES BY MARRIOTT MCPHERSON

2270 E. Kansas Avenue, McPherson, KS 67460  
Contacts: Chelsea LeClair  
Jessica Toledo  
Phone: 620-504-5353  
Web: www.fairfieldinn.com/mprfi

The **Fairfield Inn** is a modern turn of classic composition for comfort. They offer a décor package ahead of its game, being debuted as one of the elite in leading design. Catering to the diversity of guest needs, **Fairfield Inn & Suites** provides more than the average guest experience. Whether it's their dedicated allergen-free spaces or their health conscious assortment of provisions available 24/7, **Fairfield Inn & Suites** knows what it takes to accommodate every guest, every time.

Chelsea LeClair is the General Manager of the **Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott McPherson**. Originally from Wichita, she strives to maintain the ultimate guest experience while continuing to build support and promote the foundations of the McPherson community. Chelsea and her staff look forward to welcoming guests this fall.

### CONCO CONSTRUCTION

3051 N. Ohio, Wichita, Ks 67219  
Contacts: Kyle Blasdel and Gerry Munn  
Phone: 316-943-7111  
Web: www.concoconstruction.com  
Facebook: Conco Construction  
Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Established: 1975

**Conco Construction** established in 1975 is one of the top 1- general contractors in Central Kansas. They moved to their new headquarters in 2015. Their 24 acre site gives them room to grow and serve the deepest backlog in the history of their company.

**Conco Construction** believes three things differentiate their firm: their development of their people, their commitment to relationships and ability to self-perform work.

They have enjoyed long standing relationships with McPherson businesses **CertainTeed**, **Viega** and look forward to fostering new ones with other area companies. The Conco "It's Cool to be Blue" program spotlights the skilled craftsman, a central figure in their American dream to own, invest, build and prosper. They actively recruit high school graduates to enter the program and be taught a trade, be mentored and earn a training certificate from WSU Tech.

**Conco** is also home to their Facility Performance Group. This group of highly talented facility technicians and managers assist building owners in maintaining facilities and helping them operate at peak performance.

## Thank you Rural Appreciation Picnic Sponsors & Volunteers

**Sponsors:** Sunflower Bank, Midway Motors, Zeitlow Distributing, Home State Bank (Main Bank), Culligan Water, PrairieLand Partners, McPherson Eyecare, El-lene McKean & Associates, First Bank Kansas, Emprise Bank, McPherson County Extension, Wise & Reber, Mid Kansas Machine, Charlie Williams, McPherson Area Solid Waste Authority, Allan Sents, Ferguson Production, Mac Plastics, Krehbiels' Specialty Meats, S & S Farms, Peoples Bank & Trust, Hugo Dahlstrom CPA, First Street Liquor, Applebee's, McPherson Co. Farm Bureau, and Peoples Bank & Trust.

**Volunteers:** Charlie Williams, Krehbiels' Specialty Meats, Culligan Water, Ameriprise, Advanced Physical Therapy, First Bank Kansas, Home State Bank, United Way of McPherson County, Glidden-Ediger Funeral Home, S & S Farms.



*Inspiring the next generation of manufacturers*

## Opening Doors & Minds

Over the next decade, it is estimated that nearly 3.5 million U.S. manufacturing jobs will be needed and 2 million of those jobs are expected to go unfilled due to manufacturer's inability to find talent with the required skills.

These numbers dramatically underscore the importance of Manufacturing month, with an estimated 3,000 events across the country designed to introduce as many people as possible to the significant role played by manufacturing including right here in McPherson County.

The McPherson Chamber of Commerce and McPherson Industrial Development Co. will be hosting, in partnership with many McPherson County manufacturers to highlight the importance of manufacturing to the U.S. economy and showcase the rewarding, highly skilled jobs available. Manufacturers across the nation will be participating by hosting open houses, public tours and other events. The events are not just informational, it is a way for manufacturers to convey their passion for what they do, and explain why and how young people can embrace the profession with post-secondary training that often last just a year or two and doesn't leave them with decades of college debt.

McPherson County Manufacturing month in October is a way for students, parents, educators and the general public to explore and learn about how they can be involved in the growing number of amazing career potential that exists in manufacturing. Go to mfgday.com for up to date additions.

**Viega** will host the official McPherson County Manufacturing Kick Off on Friday, October 5, 2018 at 2211 Viega Avenue beginning at 8:00 a.m. There are several other manufacturers scheduled that day with Open House events and tours.

**Bradbury**, 1200 Cole, Moundridge will host an open house for students in the morning and a public Open House & tours from 2:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Keep posted of all the available events at www.mfgday.com.

## From the McPherson Chamber of Commerce



**Jennifer Burch**  
Executive Director

About 20 McPhersonites traveled to Wichita to tour MakeICT, located at 1500 E. Douglas. MakeICT started as a small coffee group in 2012 that began hosting community events to build interest and

support of their concept. In 2013 they incorporated and registered in the State of Kansas. They received their 501(c)(3) designation.

They outgrew two previous locations and as a result of the need of space for the increasing number of members, they were able to locate in the 8,700 square foot building on Douglas. Every imaginable tool to create, explore, invent, and experiment with is all under one roof. The space has designated "labs" for laser and 3D printers, ceramics, jewelry making, electronics, textiles, woodshop, metal shop with plasma/weld, CNC mill and manual lathes.

MakeICT is supported by the 400 members who pay \$25 a month. Each member must attend an orientation, sign a waiver and must be authorized on specific areas only. Training and access to some equipment is required by an electronic key, which also allows 24-7 access to the building.

You can keep track of the progress of MacMakers by following them on Facebook. If you are interested in pursuing your "inner creator" there is a meeting scheduled on Thursday, August 16 at 7:00 p.m. at The Well.



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# 2017 - 2018 Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

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**Treasurer – Josh Menard, Swindoll, Janzen, Hawk & Loyd • Past President – Adrian Morales, Hess Oil**

**Board of Directors: Katie Sawyer – Sawyer Land & Cattle • Tom Saffel – Prairie Landworks • Brad Bengtson – Home State Bank**

**Janey Anderson – A5 Western • Gordon Mohn – USD #418 • Kelly Pitts – Prairieland Partners**

**Chuck Singleton – Central States Marketing and Manufacturing • Dr. Trent Timson – Community Foot Clinic of McPherson**

**Staff: Jennifer Burch, Executive Director • Debbie Hawkinson, Administrative Assistant • Shirley Mackey, Program Assistant**



## Chamber Men to Hit the Road

Mark your calendar for October 10-14th when the 2018 Men’s Chamber Trip heads to St. Louis, Missouri, but first you must sign up and pay by September 20th to save your seat – space is limited to the first 34. As always, it will be a terrific trip with plenty of group tours and activities as well free time to explore on your own. The bonus part of traveling on a Men’s Chamber Trip is getting to know other business men and making those valuable business connections, while learning more about another community.

### Wednesday, October 10th

The motor coach will depart promptly at 7:00 a.m. from Peoples Bank & Trust parking lot. At approximately 10:30 a.m. travelers will tour the GM Assembly plant in Kansas City followed by lunch, then depart for St. Louis. Arrive at 6:00 p.m. and check in at the Drury Inn-St. Louis with social time and wrap the evening up with the ever so famous banquet at Carmine’s (which is absolutely delicious). At the banquet the honoree of the 2018 Men’s Chamber Trip Ambassador will be announced and recognized.

### Thursday, October 11th

8:00 a.m. Rise and shine to depart for a city tour. A favorite stop in St. Louis is Busch Stadium followed by lunch. At 1:30 travelers will tour the Boeing Flight Museum, then the Bissinger’s Handcrafted Chocolatier. Arrive back at hotel at 5:00 for social time beginning at 5:30. The rest of the evening is free to explore other St. Louis attractions.

### Friday, October 12th

9:15 a.m. Walk to the Gateway Arch and Riverboats and travel up to the top of the Arch and take a look at the view of St. Louis. Next stop is Tucker Theater at the Arch then on to a Riverfront Cruise and lunch. Kick the afternoon off with the Budweiser Brewery tour and then back to the hotel. Another free evening to continue your exploration of St. Louis.

### Saturday, October 13th

Free day – experience the beer festival and perhaps get a tee time and try out an area golf course.

### Sunday, October 14th

8:00 a.m. Depart hotel to head back to McPherson. Should arrive back home at about 4:30 p.m.

The very affordable price for double occupancy is \$900 per person. The trip will include: Luxury motor coach travel (reclining leather seats, Wi-Fi, satellite TV, etc), tours, banquet and hotel stay at the Drury Inn. Just getting there sounds like a vacation!

Contact the Chamber at 620-241-3303 or stop by at 306 N. Main to get signed up.

**DQ GRILL & CHILL WINNERS**  
**Congratulations to Midwest Electric, 621 N. Hickory.**  
**They are the winner of a DQ Cake. Thank you Roger & Karen Horn, owners of DQ Grill & Chill, 1435 N. Main for providing the monthly DQ ice cream treat.**

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*...To Yours*  
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*Troy Glidden - Director*

## chamber events

### August

- |    |   |    |  |
|----|---|----|--|
| 23 | 7:00 a.m. Women's Tripsters Depart for Boston                                       | 12 | 7:00 a.m. Ag Committee @ The Well, 101 N. Main   |
|    | 9:30 a.m. Chamber Connections @ Midwest Hearing Aids, 321 S. Main                   | 13 | 9:30 a.m. Chamber Connections hosted by McPherson Airport, 1000 S. Highway 81 Bypass         |
|    | 11:30 a.m. Chamber Board @ Chamber  | 19 | 12:00 noon Ambassadors @ Chamber   |
|    |   |    | 4:00 p.m. Women's Event @ Chamber  |
| 30 | 9:30 a.m. Chamber Connections hosted by the McPherson Public Library, 214 W. Marlin | 20 | 9:30 a.m. Chamber Connections hosted by Pine Village @ McPherson Chamber office, 306 N. Main |

### September

- |    |   |  |   |
|----|---|--|---|
| 3  | Labor Day Office Closed   |  |   |
| 5  | 12:00 Leadership Board @ Chamber  |  | 11:30 a.m. Chamber Board @ Chamber, 306 N. Main |
| 6  | 9:30 a.m. Chamber Connections hosted by the United Way of McPherson County @ McPherson Museum, 1111 E. Kansas |  |   |
| 11 | 12:00 Community Development @ Chamber   |  |   |



**ROB MACKEY**  
Executive Director

It may be one of the most challenging volunteer assignments you’ll ever take on. It may also be one of the most rewarding in making a difference in the life of a child.

We’re talking about CASAs – Court Appointed Special Advocates. This movement was born in 1977, when a Seattle judge determined he wasn’t getting enough information to determine what was in the best interests of abused and neglected children coming through the court system. He recruited volunteers who gathered information to advocate for a child’s best interests.

Sandra Bradley is the Executive Director for CASA in Harvey and McPherson Counties. She recruits and trains local volunteers.

## From the United Way of McPherson County

The training alone is a commitment: 30 hours, primarily in a classroom setting, as well as time in the courtroom. “We’re looking for people who have a passion and a heart to help children,” she said. “They need to keep an open mind; to leave their preconceived notions at the door.” That’s because the families involved have challenges like poverty, drug abuse, or domestic violence that affect the child’s safety. “The child is the focus,” said Bradley. The CASA gathers information, through visits and phone calls, from family, case workers and others who have involvement with the child. When Child In Need of Care cases (CINC) as they are known come to the court, the CASA can help ensure the court is getting the whole story.

Currently, McPherson County has two volunteers, serving 6 children in our court system. The need is greater. We need

enough volunteers to serve at least 24 children. Most CASAs will handle one or two cases at a time. And each case can go on for 1, 2 or even more years until the best result for the child can be provided. The CASA also helps ensure that the desires of the child are considered.

- Requirements to be a CASA are:
- Be at least 21 years of age
  - No felonies or criminal history
  - A high school graduate or have their GED
  - Successfully complete a background check
  - Successful completion of the 30-hour CASA training

CASA is a partner agency of the United Way. We help provide funding, and that’s essential. But without volunteers, there is no CASA. If you want to make a difference that could last a lifetime, contact CASA at 316-284-6909.

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