

The Chamber Business Journal

October 2019

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 New Member

Earles Engineering & Inspection, Inc.
116 N. Augustus Street, McPherson, KS 67460
Phone: 620-755-6490
Facebook: Earles Engineering & Inspection, Inc.
Website: www.earlesengineering.com
Contacts: Peter W. Earles, PE-CEO; Aurelia Patricia Earles-President; Elizabeth Hopp, PE

Earles Engineering & Inspection, Inc., (EEI) is a woman owned minority small business firm offering a broad range of services within the professions of civil, structural and environmental engineering, construction inspection and surveying. They also provide supplemental primary professional capabilities in a wide range of adjunctive services. These services include material testing specialized drainage studies, environmental assessments, structural inspections, transportation system planning, capital improvement programming, as well as grant applications and other similar consideration. These are often necessary for a full and complete project.

Earles Engineering & Inspection, Inc. is a growing company, recently opening offices in Dodge City and McPherson. With over 25 years of design, planning and general civil engineering experience with a wide range of public and private sectors, they have developed solid relationships and many long-term clients.

Get to Know the Candidates

The McPherson Chamber of Commerce BAM! Committee host's candidate forums as a service, to allow candidates seeking public office to express their views openly so community members can understand their positions and make informed voting choices. The forums are free and open to the public. They will also be broadcast live on McPherson Radio 96.7 FM- KBBE for those that are unable to attend.

The format of the candidate forums are question and answer as opposed to debate. Candidates will draw numbers to determine the speaking order. No one candidate will go first each time. The candidates will each have a 3-minute opening statement to share their reasons for seeking office, experience, qualifications and their priorities. Questions from the audience will be collected in written form. The questions will be screened by the committee for duplication and must be appropriate for ALL candidates. Candidates will each have one minute to address each applicable question. Please join us as the McPherson Chamber B.A.M! (Business and Membership) Committee hosts the City Commission Candidate Forum on Wednesday, September 25th at 7:00 p.m. at the American Legion Post #24, 401 N. Main. Running for Commissioner of Streets & Utilities (ballot will say Commissioner of Public Works) are: Anne Hassler Heidel, Richard E. Keim and Larry E. Wiens (incumbent). Running for Commissioner of Public Lands & Facilities (ballot will say Commissioner of Public Facilities) are: Gary Mehl and Michael Yates.

The USD #418 Board of Education Candidate Forum will be held Wednesday, October 9th at 7:00 p.m. at KMU, 2019 East Avenue A. Candidates are: Alan L. Burghart, Jeffrey P. Butler, Emily Greer, Jeff L. Johnson, Brian Meek, Ann M.E. Parkins, Dale Patrick, Lara Vanderhoof, and Robin K. Werth.

Exploring Manufacturing as a Career Path

Manufacturers across the country and across the street use MFG Day as an opportunity to inspire and recruit the next generation of manufacturers. With 55 manufacturers strong, McPherson County celebrates manufacturing all month! Not only is it the perfect opportunity to open doors to students and educators, some local manufacturers participate in a kick-off event, host transitioning soldiers, or are celebrating their 60th anniversary with an open house. On Friday, October 4th at 8:00 a.m. Viega, 2211 Viega Ave. will host the official McPherson County Manufacturing Kick Off. Go McPherson is organizing the "Heroes Make McPherson" event for transitioning soldiers on October 4th, and Bradbury will celebrate their 60-year milestone by offering tours to the public 2-5:00 p.m. on October 3rd.

The McPherson Chamber of Commerce and the McPherson Industrial Development Company encourage our local manufacturers to participate, and then relay the student tour information to regional educators. We appreciate the following manufacturers for participating in the 2019 MFG Month: Bradbury, The Grasshopper Co, Viega, Milacron, Ferguson Production, CertainTeed and Pfizer. Learn more about MFG Day at www.mfgday.com and how local manufacturers are encouraging manufacturing as an education and career path.

From the McPherson Chamber

After nearly 30 years of service with the McPherson Chamber of Commerce, Executive Director Jennifer Burch has announced her retirement effective September 13, 2019 due to health reasons.

Jennifer first joined the Chamber staff in 1987 as administrative assistant and served under five different directors before becoming the Executive Director of the Chamber in 2004. Growing up in Lindsborg, Jennifer graduated from Lindsborg High School (Smoky Valley High School) and Brown Mackie College Salina, with a degree in business. She and her husband, Vaughan, have two sons, Travis and Tyler, and two grandchildren, Hattie and Kyrie.

"Looking back over the past 30 years I am very proud to have been part of the growth and success of McPherson. My career with the Chamber has been rewarding, especially working with members on important initiatives and community challenges, and it has been an honor to be part of so many diverse situations. The Chamber has always played such an impor-

tant role in community progress and promotion, business growth, and development of services and resources to help not only our members, but the community as a whole. The focus on collaboration and public-private partnerships has enabled us to get things accomplished as we create an environment for growth and success," stated Burch.

When asked what she will miss the most, Burch stated, "The friendships I have developed in the course of my career will be treasured. My staff has changed over the years, and have always been appreciated, but Debbie Hawkinson and Shirley Mackey have been so supportive in the last few months and will be such an asset going forward as they keep things running smoothly in my absence. I may miss the daily interactions with everyone, but I will continue to be involved and look forward to watching the continued success and growth of McPherson."

A retirement reception to thank and honor Jennifer Burch, was held Friday, September 13.

Career Opportunity- Executive Director Position

The McPherson Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors is seeking a qualified candidate for the position of Executive Director. The applicant must be an effective organizer, interact well in a dynamic environment, be a solid team builder with proven leadership skills, and also have excellent communication, strategy, analytical, and personal skills. The ideal candidate will partner with the board of directors to develop and implement plans that provide measurable value to the community and members of the Chamber and also maintain goals established by the organization. Chamber experience is preferred. Please send three business letters of reference along with a cover letter accompanying the resume' to mcphersonchamber@gmail.com. See full Executive Director Job Description on the McPherson Chamber website www.mcphersonchamber.org Submission deadline: September 20th 2019.

DQ GRILL & CHILL WINNERS

Congratulations Touching Hearts at Home,
109 1/2 N. Main, Suite 208, McPherson. They are the winners of the DQ Cake. Thank you Roger and Karen Horn, owners of DQ Grill & Chill, 1435 N. Main, McPherson for providing the monthly DQ ice cream treat.



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2019 - 2020 Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

President-Alex Graber, Graber's Ace Hardware * President-Elect – Kendra Oakes, Peoples Bank & Trust * Treasurer- Justin Kaufman, Swindoll, Janzen, Hawk & Loyd * Past-President – Aaron Mayfield, Edwards Jones * Board of Directors: Amy Beckman, McPherson College * Shannon Brake, McPherson Public Library * Ryan Hicks, Farmers Alliance Kelly Pitts, PrairieLand Partners * Jeff Reitz, JAR Performance Automotive * Chuck Singleton, Central States Marketing & Manufacturing * Trent Timson, Community Foot Clinic of McPherson * Eric Wicker, Viega

chamber events

September

- 18** 10:00 a.m. Ribbon Cutting and Open House (10-noon) for McPherson Hospital -Rehabilitation Services Department, 1000 Hospital Drive, Building 4
- 19** 9:30 a.m. Chamber Connections @ The Foundation of Central Christian College, 100 N. Main- Ste. 201
- 25** 7:00 p.m. McPherson City Commission Candidate Forum at the American Legion Post 24, 401 N. Main
- 26** 9:30 a.m. Chamber Connections Co-hosted by McPherson County MakerSpace and Coates Cleaning Solutions, 218 N. Ash
9:45 Ribbon Cutting @ McPherson County MakerSpace, 218 N. Ash
11:30 a.m. Chamber Board Meeting @ Chamber office, 306 N. Main
- 4** Manufacturing Month Kick-Off
Chamber Women's Trip departs for Nashville, TN
- 8** 11:30 Chamber Annual Meeting & Presidents Award, @ McPherson Community Building, 122 E. Marlin
- 9** 7:00 a.m. Agriculture Committee Meeting @ The Well, 101 N. Main
7:00 p.m. USD #418 Board of Education Candidate Forum, @ KMU, 2109 E. Ave. A.
- 10** 9:30 a.m. Chamber Connections hosted by Advanced Physical Therapy, 400 W. 4th St.
- 17** 9:30 a.m. Chamber Connections hosted by McPherson Concrete, 300 N. Hwy 81
- 23** 11:30 a.m. Leadership McPherson Alumni Lunch & Learn @ Steps to End Poverty of McPherson County, 1200 E. Kansas
- 24** 9:30 a.m. Chamber Connections hosted by Mutual Tele Communications (MTC), 209 N. Main
- 29** 8:00 a.m. McPherson County Community Outlook Event @ BPU, 401 W. Kansas Ave.

October

- 2** 12:00 Noon- Leadership Committee Meeting @ Chamber office, 306 N. Main
- 3** 9:30 a.m. Chamber Connections & Ribbon Cutting @ Mattress Haven Furniture and Appliance, 310 N. Main St.

Join Business Professionals in Our Community for the McPherson County Community Outlook Event-What to Expect

Business and community leaders will talk about relevant economic issues that will impact local businesses and communities, including economic conditions, economic drivers for the state and regional economies, and general expectations over the coming months. Topics will include labor demand, costs, and wages. A local presenter will provide an in-depth analysis of the local economy. Registration is \$50. Learn more and register at www.coe.cedbr.org.

All attendees will receive a one-year subscription to CEDBR's forecast booklets (\$100 value), which are in-depth publications and reference guides on regional and state-wide economic conditions in Kansas. Event is hosted by the Center for Economic Development and Business Research at Wichita State University (CEDBR), with support from the McPherson Chamber of Commerce, City of McPherson, McPherson Industrial Development Company and GoMcPherson.




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North Bank 1300 N. Main	Auto Bank Maple & Euclid

Welcome New Chamber Board Members

We look forward to working with the new 2019/2020 McPherson Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors: Ryan Hicks (Farmers Alliance), Kendra Oaks -President Elect (Peoples Bank and Trust), Jeff Reitz (JAR Performance Automotive) and Eric Wicker (Viega), who will be joining other board members: Amy Beckman (McPherson College), Shannon Brake (McPherson Public Library), Alex Graber -President (Graber's Ace Hardware), Justin Kaufman-Treasurer (Swindoll, Janzen, Hawk & Loyd), Aaron Mayfield-Past President (Edward Jones), Kelly Pitts (PrairieLand Partners), Chuck Singleton (Central States Marketing & Manufacturing), and Trent Timson (Community Foot Clinic of McPherson).

The Board would also like to recognize the outgoing board members whose term ended August 31, 2019, for sharing their time and talent to benefit the Chamber organization: Janey Anderson (A5 Western), Brad Bengtson (Home State Bank), Brad Mears (KMU) and Gordon Mohn (USD #418).

Annual Meeting & President's Award Presentation

You are invited to join us for the McPherson Chamber annual meeting and President's Award presentation on Tuesday, October 8, 2019 at 11:30 a.m. at the McPherson Community Building. We will be celebrating the leadership of the Chamber by recognizing new 2019/2020 Chamber Board members as well as retiring board members. We look forward to another year of promoting a vibrant business community and enhanced quality of life.

The Chamber annual meeting is also an opportunity to honor a person who has unselfishly given of their time for the betterment of the business community in McPherson and whose contribution is readily identifiable and has made a long-term impact. The 2019 recipient, Fred Bohnenblust, was selected by the McPherson Chamber of Commerce Past Presidents. Cost to attend is \$25/person. Please RSVP by October 3 to chamber@mcphersonks.org or by calling the McPherson Chamber at 620-241-3303.



ROB MACKEY
Executive Director

GIVING CHILD ABUSE VICTIMS A VOICE

If you are like a lot of people, you may have the misconception that children are sexually abused by strangers....that they're most at risk from "stranger danger," a term we still hear from time to time.

But according to L. Kelly with the Heart to Heart Child Advocacy Center, research tells us at least 90% of the children who are abused know their abuser. "That's probably an eye opening statistic for people," said Kelly. Heart to Heart is one of about 800 child advocacy centers in the nation, and the center based in Newton provides services in Harvey, McPherson, and Marion Counties. Their focus is to strengthen the community's efforts to prevent and respond to child abuse. Child abuse includes physical injury, physical neglect, emotional injury, and any kind of sexual abuse, including child pornography and commercial sexual ex-

From the United Way of McPherson County

ploitation. At Heart to Heart, they collaborate with a variety of community partners, from law enforcement to medical and mental health providers who specialize in identifying trauma caused by child abuse. They connect children and their non-offending caregivers to services and support children in their search for healing and justice. Many of these cases go through the court system.

Kelly said in the digital age, there's more exposure and potential for children to be victimized by strangers or people they believe are their friends, through cell phones, laptops, tablets or gaming devices because they very quickly develop friendships or relationships with people they may know in real life or they may not know. One of the things they hear a lot from young teens is, "I didn't want to be rude...I didn't know I could say no. I didn't want to do something but felt like I had to do it. I just wanted them to stop bugging me." Kelly said, "And they don't realize how quickly they become ensnared."

At Heart to Heart's center located in McPherson's Municipal Center, forensic interviews

are held that give the child an opportunity to tell what happened to them, in a very neutral, calm, reassuring environment and it's video recorded so it can be shared with law enforcement investigators and prosecutors.

"I think people may assume that could be traumatic to the child, but I can tell you I've never seen a child come out of the interview upset," said Kelly. "They're generally relieved and relaxed, because they had the opportunity to talk about what they needed to talk about."

Heart to Heart is a United Way of McPherson County partner agency. While Heart to Heart does receive state and federal government funding, many of those grants require proof of community support. United Way dollars are used as matching funds to leverage those government grants, which Kelly said is "fantastic."

To learn more about Heart to Heart, visit them online at <https://www.hearttoheartcac.com>. If you suspect child abuse or neglect, call 9-1-1 or 1-800-922-5330. For an educational presentation, contact L. Kelly at director@hearttoheartcac.com.

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Troy Glidden - Director