

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 Members

Earles Engineering & Inspection, Inc.
116 North August Street, McPherson, KS
Contact: Peter W. Earles
Phone: 620-755-6490
Website: earlesengineering.com
Facebook: EarlesEngineering

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. EEI provides 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 considerations. These are often necessary for a full and complete project. EEI is a growing company, recently opening offices in Dodge City and here in McPherson. With over 25 years of design, planning and general civil engineering experience with a wide range of public and private sectors, EEI has developed solid relationships and many long-term clients.

Boy Scouts of America- Quivira Council, Pawnee District
McPherson, KS
Contact: Mark Hunter, Pawnee District Executive
Phone: 620-245-0801
Website: quivira.org / Facebook: facebook.com/pawneedist

The Quivira Council Pawnee District of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) serves scouting throughout McPherson, Harvey, Kingman, Reno, and Rice Counties. Mark Hunter is the Professional District Executive for Pawnee District with hundreds of adult volunteers supporting over 750 youth. The BSA mission is to “prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.” Youth are trained in responsible citizenship, character development, and self-reliance through participation in a wide range of outdoor activities, educational programs, and even career-oriented programs. There are four Cub Scout Packs for ages 5-11, five Scouts BSA Troops for ages 11-18, and one Venturing Crew for ages 14-21 in the McPherson area. Additional opportunities in career-oriented Exploring are coming soon. Local scouting is pleased to support the strong nationwide ties between BSA and the Chamber of Commerce. Note: Thomas J. Donohue, president and CEO of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce was himself an Eagle Scout with an early career training as a BSA District Executive. Donohue currently serves as the National Council Exploring Chairman and presided in a year of unprecedented growth in that BSA program.

McPherson County MakerSpace
218 N. Ash, McPherson, KS
Contact: Michael Yates
Phone 620-245-7650
Website: mcphersoncountymakerspace.org
Facebook: McPherson County MakerSpace

The McPherson County MakerSpace is a member-based organization that grants the public access to high-end, high-tech tools and equipment that are inaccessible in most. Their facility includes a photo portrait studio, a member-access store to purchase various materials and components, and a tech lab that includes 3 high-end 3D printers, an airbrush station, a laser cutter and etcher, a vinyl cutter, a heat press, three hot air rework soldering stations, a 12’ industrial long arm quilting machine, and a desktop CNC router. **McPherson County MakerSpace** has ample workshop space for projects, both personal and commercial, and they train their members how to properly use all the equipment they have on-site. Businesses may also join to develop rapid prototypes, create products to sell to customers, or develop their own materials, such as signs or uniforms. Once trained, **McPherson County MakerSpace** allows their members 24/7 access via keycard to the facility.

McPherson Buzz
121 W. Marlin, Ste. 410 - McPherson, KS
Contacts: Jennifer Flood, Teri Hansen
Website: mcphersonbuzz.com
Facebook: facebook.com/mcphersonbuzz

McPherson Buzz is an independent, locally owned, online news publication centered on McPherson. It is completely FREE to readers. **McPherson Buzz** is dedicated to having newsworthy stories, entertaining sports coverage, and resources the community needs, all in one place. If you have questions, stories you would like to have covered, or ideas for the publication, you can contact the **McPherson Buzz** any time at editor@mcphersonbuzz.com.

From the McPherson Chamber

A Whirlwind of Celebrations and Connections

Since the last Chamber Journal was published, your Chamber has had a whirlwind of activities to celebrate and promote our members and create opportunities for community connections. In addition to the daily happenings, we have celebrated new businesses or grand re-openings with ribbon cuttings for McPherson County MakerSpace, Coates Cleaning Solutions, and Mattress Haven Furniture and Appliance. The Chamber B.A.M. Committee hosted candidate forums for the City Commission and for the USD #418 Board of Education candidates. Thursday morning Chamber Connections (weekly opportunities to promote your business or organization and connect with others in the community) were hosted by the Foundation of Central Christian College, McPherson County MakerSpace, Coates Cleaning Solutions, Mattress Haven Furniture and Appliance, and Advanced Physical Therapy.

Fifty-two women represented McPherson as they traveled to Nashville, TN with the McPherson Chamber Women’s Trip.

To showcase our manufacturers, we kicked off October with the McPherson County Manufacturing Month Proclamation at the McPherson City Commis-

sion meeting. Mayor Tom Brown signed the proclamation to support the national effort, bringing attention to the present-day manufacturing environment and inspiring the next generation of workforce. Thank you to The Bradbury Company, CertainTeed Corporation, Viega, Ferguson Production, Milacron, Pfizer, and The Grasshopper Company for participating in McPherson County Manufacturing Month.

Kind of like the Energizer bunny.... we keep going. The McPherson Chamber also held the 98th Chamber Annual Meeting at the beautiful McPherson Community Building with a phenomenal lunch catered by The Well. We recognized the new Chamber board members, outgoing board members and presented Fred Bohnenblust with the 2019 Chamber President’s award. The Chamber also honored retired Executive Director, Jennifer Burch for her 30 years of dedication to our community, 30 years of passion for Chamber work and 30 years of making a difference to so many businesses, organizations and individuals in our community.

Be watching your Chamber E-newsletter and join us for a full calendar of whirlwind celebrations and activities coming up.

Executive Director Announcement Coming Soon!

Leadership McPherson Alumni Lunch & Learn

Attention, Leadership McPherson Alumni, you are invited to learn how Steps to End Poverty of McPherson County (STEPMC) is pursuing their vision: to end poverty in McPherson County one family at a time.

Join us at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, October 23, 2019 at the First United Methodist Church, 1200 E. Kansas (in the service center, just inside the East church entrance). Cost for the Lunch & Learn is \$10. Please RSVP to chamber@mcphersonks.org or 620-241-3303 by Oct. 21.

STEPMC walks alongside people until they are out of poverty by forming a community around those in their program, fostering connections, and creating pathways of opportunity and success. Join us on Wednesday, October 23rd to learn more about STEPMC and ways you can be involved in transforming lives.

DQ GRILL & CHILL WINNERS

Congratulations Jeff Smith with S&S Farms, Windom KS.

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

October

- 17** 9:30 am Chamber Connections hosted by McPherson Concrete Products, 300 N. 81 Bypass
- 18** 9:00 am Chamber Ribbon Cutting at Integrity Salon & Spa, 108 N. Main
- 23** 11:30 Leadership Alumni Lunch & Learn for Steps to End Poverty of McPherson County
- 24** 9:30 am Chamber Connections hosted by MTC, 209 N. Main
11:30 am Chamber Board meeting at Chamber office, 306 N. Main
- 29** 8:00 am CEDBR Community Event @ BPU

- 31** 9:30 am Chamber Connections hosted by K-State Research & Extension, 600 W. Woodside

November

- 1-3** Holiday Open House Weekend. Get an early start on your Christmas shopping
- 6** 12:00 noon Leadership Committee @ Chamber office, 306 N. Main
- 7** 9:30 am Chamber Connections hosted by Sunflower Bank, 120 W. Kansas Ave.
11:30 am Chamber Board meeting @ Chamber office
5:30 pm Snowball Drop to kick off the holiday season
- 13** 7:00 am Ag Committee meeting at The Well, 101 N. Main

Bohnenblust named 2019 President's Award Winner

Each year the Past Presidents of the Chamber select an individual that has given unselfishly of their time for the betterment of the business community, is readily identifiable and has had a long- term impact. We were honored to recognize Fred Bohnenblust as the 2019 President' Award winner during the Annual Chamber Meeting on October 8th.

Fred Bohnenblust grew up in McPherson, attending Washington elementary and graduating from McPherson High School in 1970. He attended Kansas State University, Manhattan and graduated with a degree in Business Administration. After graduation, Fred and his wife Jackie (Geiman) served in the Peace Corps in the Philippines for 2 years before returning to McPherson.

Fred and Jackie will tell you that they have benefited from the leadership and vision of past community leaders in the Chamber of Commerce and MIDC who saw the need to encourage and develop business and industry in McPherson. Because of that development and job creation, they were able to come back to the community they loved after college and raise a family. After working at Sterling Drug Company (now Pfizer) for 2 years, he began a career in banking at Home State Bank & Trust, now a part of the Citizens State Bank, as a loan officer specializing in consumer, small business and real estate lending. His portfolio of loans helped thousands of customers with their finances. After 37 years at the bank, he retired from banking in 2015. His wife, Jackie retired from public school teaching this year. Fred and Jackie have 2 daughters and son-in-law's and 4 grandchildren.

Fred has always had a passion for service in the community. His Christian belief system is that "to those that much has been given, much is required". He served on the board of the McPherson Chamber of Commerce and was in the first Leadership McPherson class. He has served on the McPherson Planning Commission.

He has been particularly active in local non-profits. He served for 20 years on the McPherson Family YMCA as board member and President. He has served on the board of the United Way, McPherson High Booster Club, the Sunflower Chapter of the Red Cross (past treasurer and president), the McPherson Museum and Arts Foundation (past president), McPherson Optimist Club (past secretary/treasurer and past president) and Operation Warmth.

His current passion is Habitat for Humanity. He has served on the board and as treasurer of McPherson Area Habitat for Humanity for 17 years and he works many days of the year helping build simple, affordable homes for low income families in McPherson County. He has also transferred his banking experience to Habitat for Humanity where he services the portfolio of home mortgages for the organization.

Fred enjoys tennis, golf, fishing and hunting with his dog, Belle. He has been a member of the McPherson Community Brass Choir for 43 years and plays his trombone regularly with other groups like the Men-O-Brass, a support group for the Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus. He is a member of First Presbyterian Church and has regularly participated in mission work trips – Hurricane Katrina clean-up in 2006 and 2007, Hurricane Harvey clean-up in 2018 most recently to Puerto Rico this summer to help with the continued clean-up of Hurricane Maria.

Making a difference to so many in our community and overseas. Congratulations to Fred Bohnenblust, a very deserving recipient of this year's McPherson Chamber of Commerce President's Award.



Join Business Professionals in Our Community for the McPherson County Community Outlook Event

The U.S. is officially in its longest economic expansion in history, breaking the previous record of 120 months. Join local business and community leaders for the McPherson County Community Outlook Event on Tuesday, October 29, 2019. A combination of state and local experts will talk about the current expansion and provide an economic perspective on issues affecting the regional economy.

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, Go McPherson and McPherson Industrial Development Company.



ROB MACKEY
Executive Director

HELP WITH DECIPHERING ALPHABET SOUP

A, B, C, D, F, G, K, L, M, & N. What is this? It may look like a half-eaten bowl of alphabet soup, but those letters represent different parts of Medicare – the government's health care system for senior citizens.

It is amazing that senior citizens are presented with such a complex web of choices that impact their lives. But the good news is, there is help.

The McPherson County Council on Aging is entirely focused on helping people age well in their senior years. And there is advice and counsel when it comes to Medicare. Lori-Hager Johnson is the senior advisor and is also a trained SHICK advisor. (Senior Health Insurance Counseling for Kansas) Right now, it's open enrollment for part D. Part D is

the part of Medicare that covers prescription drugs.

Hager-Johnson said she expects to see a lot more people this year because of changes in Medicare part D plans. Congress passed legislation taking effect next year that will close the "donut hole." This is the coverage gap you reach when you have spent a certain amount of money for covered drugs and then everything is out-of-pocket up to a yearly limit. She said, "Now they're closing up that hole, so it's going to be more cost for the consumer. Some of the plans have taken a big jump in their premiums. And people are going to be getting out of those plans and changing."

SHICK counselors are also a good source of information on Medicare Supplement Insurance. Surprisingly, Medicare doesn't pay for everything. "It is the general perception, but it was never meant to be that way," said Hager-Johnson. For example, Medicare generally pays 80%, leaving you with 20% after

your deductibles are met. "People should consider a Medicare supplement, even if it's a high deductible plan for catastrophic illness. "It could definitely break you if you don't have it." Medicare is alphabet soup – but your SHICK counselors can make it more digestible so you can be informed and make wise choices. In addition to Hager-Johnson at the McPherson County Council on Aging, which is a United Way partner agency, other local SHICK advisors are Sondra Frank, Director of the McPherson Senior Center and Jana McKinney, Family & Consumer Agent with McPherson County's K-State Extension Office. Call to make an appointment to get good advice during Open Enrollment and other Medicare questions you may have. Open enrollment closes December 7. McPherson County Council on Aging – 620-241-4383 McPherson Senior Center – 620-241-1848 McPherson County Extension – 620-241-1523



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