

The Chamber Business Journal

December 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

Scooter's Coffee
611 N. Main, McPherson, KS
Contact: Jessica Gillette, Justin Gillette, Kara Muhs
Phone: 620-718-2095
Hours: Monday-Saturday 6 a.m.-7 p.m. / Sunday 7 a.m.-7 p.m.
Website: scooterscoffee.com
Facebook: ScootersCoffee

Scooter's Coffee in McPherson is a locally owned, drive thru, specialty coffee shop. They specialize in hand-tamped espresso drinks, but also serve smoothies, iced tea, Red Bull drinks, hot tea and lemonade. Nearly all of their espresso drinks can be served hot, iced, or blended, particularly popular is their signature drink, the Carmelicious. In addition to **Scooter's Coffee** drink menu, they also serve breakfast all day. On the food menu, you will find breakfast burritos, sandwiches, cinnamon rolls, and other pastries. Owners, Justin and Jessica Gillette, are excited to bring this restaurant to the North end of Main Street in McPherson. Justin was born and raised in McPherson and proudly calls McPherson his hometown. Both Justin and Jessica started their professional careers in McPherson and enjoyed living and working here. They are both glad to be a part of such a supportive community and look forward to contributing in a positive way.

Be watching your Chamber e-newsletter and the McPherson Chamber of Commerce Facebook page for the Ribbon Cutting announcement coming soon!

Midwest Retail Properties
2210 East Kansas Ave., McPherson, KS
Contact: Elaina Denning or John Cusumano at (314)-690-2777
Website: mrpstl.com
Facebook: [midwestretailproperties](https://www.facebook.com/midwestretailproperties)

Midwest Retail Properties, LLC (MRP) is a real estate investment firm focused on acquiring dominant retail shopping centers next to high performing Walmart Supercenters in secondary and tertiary markets across the U.S. Their thorough knowledge, experience, and due diligence in acquiring these properties allows MRP to invest in an undervalued asset type in markets overlooked by others. MRP's properties provide their tenants the opportunity to lease real estate consisting of low rents, high sales and dominant positioning to perform during both weak and strong economic environments.

Midwest Retail Properties has a 6,600 square foot building available for lease at 2210 E. Kansas Ave. in McPherson next to the Walmart Supercenter! Welcome to McPherson, Midwest Retail Properties.

Nile Valley Garden Products
400 N. Maple, McPherson, KS
Contact: Michael Yates or Matt Miller
Phone: 620-245-0700

Nile Valley Garden Products produces high-quality, organic, eco-friendly fertilizer products that are easy to use, safe for pets and birds, and locally sourced. All of their packaging is also eco-friendly and biodegradable. **Nile Valley Garden Products** hopes to bring about awareness regarding the harmful nature of synthetic fertilizers and be able to provide sustainable, high-performance organic alternatives.

Be watching for updates on Nile Valley Garden Products in the McPherson Chamber e-newsletter.

DQ GRILL & CHILL WINNERS

Congratulations Michael T. Mills, Attorney, 111 E. Marlin St. McPherson. Mills is the winner 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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From the McPherson Chamber ChamberChecks- The Perfect Gift for Cousin Eddie!

Have you figured out what to get your daughter's teacher? How about your co-worker, pastor, bus driver or Cousin Eddie? ChamberChecks are a unique and appropriate gift for anyone on your gift list. The McPherson Chamber of Commerce offers ChamberChecks year-round to businesses and individuals who wish to give the perfect gift to employees, relatives and friends. By purchasing ChamberChecks you are supporting local businesses and investing back into our community. ChamberChecks are easy to order, fun to give, and even more fun to get because they can be used at any of these participating Chamber member businesses:

A5 Western, Artshirt-Gear for Sport, Awaken Church, Boy Scouts of America, Browns Shoe Fit-McPherson, Built-Mor Restoration, Burgetts Furniture, CK Pharmacy-McPherson, Clayworks, Compass Realty, CT Fit 24, Culvers Wine & Spirits, Dacus Auto Body, Dillon's-McPherson, Domino's-McPherson, Donna's Pool & Patio, Dr. Ken D. Cotton DDS, Elysium Studios, Esther V. Rettig MD, PA, Fairfield Inn & Suites-McPherson, Graber's Ace Hardware, Heartbeat Coffee, Integrated Health & Wellness Center, Integrity Salon & Spa, Jantz Lumber and Hardware, JAR Performance Automotive, KB's Barbershop, Knackies Meats & Sweets, Krehbiels Specialty Meats, Legacy Eyecare, Mac-Town Cross-Fit, McPherson Buzz, McPherson County MakerSpace, McPherson Eye Care, McPherson Family YMCA, Mid Kansas Dental, Midway Motors Supercenter, MPNaz Church, Nook's and Crannies Floral, Noffy's Sandwich Shop & Pub, Omni 21-Digital Marketing, Papa Murphy's-McPherson, Partners in Family Care, Pizza Hut-McPherson, Rusty Tin Boutique & Vintage, Scooter's Coffee-McPherson, Simply Good Overstocks, Stupka Chiropractic & Wellness Center, Sunflower Mercantile, Tesori Boutique-McPherson, The Cook's Nook, The Stone Chimney, The Well, Three Rings Brewery, Treasure Chest Guns & Indoor Range, Venable Jewelers, Walmart-McPherson.

If you are in a hurry, call the McPherson Chamber of Commerce at 620-241-3303 to pre-order ChamberChecks and we will have them printed and ready for you to pick up. If you are giving them as Christmas gifts, be sure to pick up your ChamberChecks before 11:00 a.m. Christmas Eve at 306 N. Main

“Embrace the Journey” with the 2020 Farm Forum Speaker

Life is a challenge. The fact is, the current farming economy is tough; perhaps tougher financially than ever. Financial stress is devastating; there should be no shame with mental uncertainty tied to being a producer. Our 2020 Farm Forum keynote speaker, Mark Potter and his wife Nanette have dealt with severe depression and mental challenges. Mark brings motivation, transformation, and new attitudes that get you thinking; helping with the daily grind of “business as usual.” Learn to love what you do with practical ideas about mindset changes.

Farmers and ranchers are unique business owners with unique types of challenges and stresses. In an article by Maureen Hanson in the June, 2019 Dairy Herd Management, Hanson wrote, “Farmers are, by nature, independent, optimistic, proud, resilient and strong. But the perfect storm of historically terrible weather, prolonged market weakness, global trade wars and more, is driving some farmers to the breaking point. In a recent national poll sponsored by the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF), 91% of farmers surveyed said financial issues were affecting their mental health, followed closely by farm or business problems (88%) and fear of losing the farm (87%). Other factors included stress, weather, the economy, isolation and social stigma.”

Let's all embrace a healthier attitude about seeking help and show our farmers and ranchers the strength of community. **The McPherson Chamber of Commerce Agriculture Committee will host the Farm Forum on Monday, February 24th at 6:00 p.m.** The guest speaker is funded through a K-State Research and Extension, Culture of Health grant. Additional details about the 2020 Farm Forum, including the announcement of the Friend of Ag honoree and the Farm Family of the Year will be available in the next Chamber Journal and on the McPherson Chamber of Commerce website.

Wrapping up the Season with MORE Holiday Events

The Holiday Promotion “McPherson...Where Santa Shops” is brought to you by the McPherson Chamber and McPherson Main Street to bring you a delightful holiday experience in McPherson. Whether you have an entire afternoon to stroll around town in search of the perfectly unique gift for someone special, or you have created an organized list of gifts to purchase at several local McPherson gems, you are in for a treat. While you are shopping, take time to enjoy the Holiday Movies, Cookies with Santa, get registered for the Candy Cane Cash drawing and appreciate the welcoming hometown ambiance of McPherson.

Cookies with Santa- Only THREE more chances to have Cookies with Santa before he heads back to the North Pole! Bring your cameras, have a photo with Santa and be sure to ask about a free print coupon, compliments of the Walgreens store in McPherson.

- Thurs., December 19th, 5 p.m.-6:30 p.m. at McPherson County MakerSpace, 218 N. Ash

- Sat., December 21st, 9:30 a.m.-11 a.m. at Sunflower Bank, 120 W. Kansas
- Sat., December 21st, 2 p.m.-3:30 p.m. at Clayworks, 107 N. Main

Free Movie- Relax and Enjoy the Free Movie “The Grinch (2018 version)” on Saturday, December 21st. The FREE movie will be showing at the McPherson Opera House, 219 S. Main at 3 p.m. Movie sponsors will be displayed before the movie and can also be found at www.mcphersonchamber.org

Candy Cane Cash- Don't forget to drop your completed Candy Cane Cash registrations in the boxes at the participating businesses. You have until December 31st to shop, shop, shop then register to win a Candy Cane Cash Shopping Spree. One lucky winner will receive \$1,000 in Candy Cane Cash and the second place winner will have \$500 in Candy Cane Cash to spend at participating stores. Winners will be drawn the middle of January, 2020.

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

December

- 19** 9:30 a.m. Chamber Connections @ Home State Bank, 223 N. Main
5:00-6:30 p.m. Cookies with Santa @ McPherson County MakerSpace, 218 N. Ash
- 21** 9:30-11:00 a.m. Cookies with Santa @ Sunflower Bank, 120 West Kansas Avenue
2-3:30 p.m. Cookies with Santa @ Clayworks, 107 N. Main
3:00 p.m. Free Movie "The Grinch (2018)" @ the McPherson Opera House, 219 S. Main
- 24** Chamber closes at noon

- 25** Merry Christmas from the McPherson Chamber of Commerce board and staff
- 26** No Chamber Connections today
- 31** Chamber office closes at noon

January

- 1** Happy New Year!
- 2** 9:30 Chamber Connections @ The Stone Chimney, 1500 E. First St.
- 8** 7:00 a.m. Agriculture Committee @ K-State Research and Extension, 600 W. Woodside
- 9** 9:30 Chamber Connections TBD



ROB MACKEY
Executive Director

From the United Way of McPherson County

operates general public transportation buses in the City of McPherson. "We use our wheelchair lift to get people to and from the doctor. We make sure that anybody, no matter what age they are, has the availability for transportation," said Frank. Sondra has helped countless people each year as a SHICK counselor (SHICK stands for Senior Health Insurance Counselors of Kansas). SHICK counselors help people through the signup for Medicare, and also at open enrollment in the fall when seniors can change their prescription drug plans. "That's one of the biggest expenses that most of our seniors have," she said. "And a lot of them have to make that decision – whether they pay for their meds or pay for their food."

Frank said they helped one man save a stunning \$5,000 a year just by changing what pharmacy he went to, because the medical card he had for drugs wasn't a preferred provider at that pharmacy. "That's something we're really proud of," she said. How does retirement feel? "A little scary," she admitted. But she looks forward to spending more time with her 90-year old father.

Sondra loves to dance, and for years has led seniors in country line dancing in exercise class. "It's great for their memory because they have to remember whether they're going left or going right. The line dance is great – they have a lot of fun and it really is good exercise for them. And that's been probably my most fun part of the job."

Her parting words are, "I have loved every minute of it, and I'm going to miss it very much."

Thank you, Sondra, for enriching the lives of so many seniors through the years in McPherson. *The McPherson Senior Center receives United Way funding through the McPherson County Council on Aging, which is a United Way partner agency.*

SONDRA FRANK – THIS RETIREE WILL KEEP ON DANCING

It was 1984 when Sondra Frank was hired as the Secretary/Bookkeeper at the McPherson Senior Center. She had an accounting background, so it was a great fit. She then moved into the Center Director's role upon the departure of Milt Goering.

Now 35 years later, Sondra Frank has joined the retiree ranks. Her last day on the job was December 13th.

"Every community needs a senior center," said Frank. "It's a focal point for services and activities for our older adults. We have a tremendous amount of people in the center who are single that don't have family members around, their kids have moved away to other states. So we kind of become a family here." Whether they're eating lunch, playing pool or cards, or in an exercise class, people at the senior center "just get to be friends. It's a very important thing because too many people live alone these days and they need that connection with other people so they're not home alone all the time," said Frank.

"I have a lot of widowed ladies who have lost their spouses, and I have a total understanding of that since I lost mine ten years ago. So we just have that connection," she said.

"The saddest part of this job is how many people we lose," said Sondra. "In 35 years, I've lost a lot of people that I've been very close to."

The McPherson Senior Center

THE MCPHERSON SENTINEL

116 S. Main - McPherson - 620.241.2422

AFA Scholarship Applications Now Available

The McPherson Chamber of Commerce is collaborating with Agriculture Future of America (AFA) to support an agricultural scholarship program. AFA is a 501(c) 3 corporation dedicated to helping support higher education and leader development of future agriculture producers and rural business leaders.

The McPherson Chamber of Commerce Agriculture Committee is raising funds to support the AFA Leader and Academic Scholarship for McPherson County. AFA will leverage community fundraising efforts by soliciting corporations and foundations to provide financial resources to match community dollars. Since 1996, AFA's partnerships have awarded more than \$9 million in academic scholarships, and provided leader training to nearly 13,000 students and young professionals.

The AFA Leader and Academic Scholarship is \$4,450, consisting of a \$3,200 academic scholarship. The additional \$1,250 will sponsor the McPherson County recipient to the AFA Leaders Conference in Kansas City the November of the scholarship year.

Eligibility requirements for the McPherson Chamber of Commerce AFA Scholarship include seniors that reside in McPherson County &/or attend a high school in McPherson County and plan to enroll in an accredited college of agriculture. The application is available at www.agfuture.org/scholarships and is due by March 11, 2020

AFA, founded in the fall of 1996 by the late R. Crosby Kemper Jr., is headquartered in Kansas City, Missouri. In addition to enhancing the education and leader potential of rural youth in the Midwest region through community-based scholarships, AFA provides leader and career development training and internship assistance to college students across the country.

AFA builds bridges for young leaders to foster engagement and innovation in food and agriculture. With program participation increasing 73 percent in the last five years, AFA leader development programs have impacted 13,000 college leaders and young professionals from more than 200 colleges and universities throughout 43 states since its inception in 1996. AFA has awarded more than \$9 million in academic and leader development scholarships. For more information about AFA, visit www.agfuture.org or contact Megan Karlin at megan.karlin@agfuture.org. For more information about this local scholarship opportunity, contact Debbie Hawkinson at the McPherson Chamber of Commerce, 620-241-3303 or chamberdirector@mcphersonks.org.

Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge Showcases Students Creativity

An incredibly talented class of entrepreneurs used their imaginations to create new services, new products and new ways of filling the needs of a community. At the 2019 Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge hosted by the McPherson Chamber in association with the NetWork Kansas E-Community Partnership, the students presented their business concepts to a panel of judges. They showed confidence in their business proposals during their 4-minute presentations and had visual slides of data to back it up. Having submitted their executive summary of financial information and target market research to be judged prior to the YEC, they still had to complete the third part of the competition, the tradeshow. Once again, the students shined with enthusiasm in communicating their business ideas and had visual displays that showcased their talents.

While there were 6 judges for the 3 portions of the competition, the public was invited to attend the tradeshow and cast their vote for the People's Choice award. Congratulations to Clayton Everhart and Jaden Fox with their impressive tradeshow display and sales pitch for Chip'n Charge Tennis. Photos from the 2019 YEC can be seen on the McPherson Chamber of Commerce Facebook page.

After the competition portion of the event, students and guests had the opportunity to hear from entrepreneur Zack Singleton with Central States Marketing & Manufacturing. Singleton shared some helpful advice, what new concept he is working on now, and experiences he has encountered while getting established in the business world.

The Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge consisted of 13 students and 12 business plans from Taylor Stucky's McPherson High School Business and Entrepreneurship class. Although the McPherson YEC is only in its second year, it has already revealed many talented entrepreneurs who may be our next generation of business leaders.

The winning concepts for the 2019 Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge were awarded to the following students. Third place certificate and a check for \$300 went to Maddie Dobson, with Light Bulb Designs and the second place winner of \$500 was Blade Anderson with Blades Freight. The 2019 YEC first place winner and recipient of \$750 is Gus Ruddle with his miniature golf business called Gus Putt. In addition to prize money and recognition, Ruddle has the opportunity to compete in the Kansas Entrepreneurship Challenge on April 28, 2020 in Manhattan.

Well done MHS students! We hope you will pursue the path of entrepreneurship and put your ideas into motion.

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