

The Chamber Business Journal

January 2020

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 feet 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.

DQ GRILL & CHILL WINNERS

Congratulations to Kansas Municipal Utilities, 2090 E. Ave A. KMU 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.

Come ENJOY Asheville, NC with the McPherson Chamber Women's Trip – August 27-31, 2020

A city in western North Carolina's Blue Ridge Mountains, Asheville is known for a vibrant art scene, historic landmarks, and breathtaking natural beauty. Come explore this metropolitan mountain city with the McPherson Chamber of Commerce Women's Trip!

Trip Cost: \$1595 per person double occupancy; \$1445 per person triple occupancy; \$1375 per person quad occupancy. (based on a minimum of 32 travelers and maximum of 45). \$300 deposit reserves your space: ~LIMITED SPACE~ TRIP WILL FILL UP FAST! Deposit due no later than Feb 10, 2020 and final balance is due June 27, 2020. Non chamber members add \$50 to trip fees. All monies paid are nonrefundable. 3% fee for payments by credit card. Optional trip insurance available and must be paid at time of deposit ... inquire at McPherson Travel Center 620-241-5830 for further information

Trip package includes:

- Round trip airport transfers (McPherson/Kansas City Airport) by deluxe motor coach
- Round trip airfare from Kansas City to Charlotte, NC
- Round trip airport transfers to/from Asheville
- Hotel accommodations for 4 nights at the Kimpton Hotel Arras
- Thursday evening private group dinner
- City Sightseeing Tour with LaZoom
- Food Tour with Eating Asheville Tours
- Transportation and Admission to the Biltmore Estate

Optional "Rooftop Tour" at the Biltmore Estate = \$25.00. 1 hour in length / maximum of 16 people at one time. Will need to be able to climb steps. Don't participate if claustrophobic or afraid of heights

Optional driving tour into the Blue Ridge Mountains. Please indicate if you are interested ... we will provide further details later.

Itinerary:

Thursday, August 27, 2020- Depart McPherson this morning by motor coach to Kansas City for our nonstop flight from there to Charlotte, NC and continuing on to Asheville by motor coach. Arrive in Asheville this evening and check in to our hotel, the new Kimpton Hotel Arras ... a lovely boutique hotel located in the heart of Asheville ... steps from galleries, shops, breweries and cafes. Enjoy a private dinner together at the Hotel Arras, with time to step out on the town later if you want.

Friday, August 28, 2020- This morning enjoy a twist on our usual city sightseeing tour as we board "the purple bus" for a private tour of the city with LaZoom. Experience Asheville with a balanced mix of humor and history. This afternoon we'll join Eating Asheville Tours on a walking tour of downtown Asheville for an authentic taste of Asheville's food scene, what the locals refer to as Foodtopia! The evening is free for you to enjoy. Follow the rhythm to the downtown Drum Circle, a long-standing Friday night tradition for both locals and visitors in Pritchard Park.

Saturday, August 29, 2020- Today is for you to do as you please. Explore the River Arts District, an area along the French Broad River where more than 200 local artists and crafters have studios in industrial and historical buildings. For shoppers ... you'll want to check out the independent stores of downtown. For history buffs ... take a self-guided tour along the Urban Trail. When you get hungry and thirsty there is an impressive selection of outdoor cafes, food trucks, and craft breweries.

Plans are in the works to offer an optional excursion today ... a scenic drive into the Blue Ridge Mountains to enjoy some of the best awe-inspiring panoramic views of the southeast (2 – 3 hours in length). Further information on this will follow at a later date.

Sunday, August 30, 2020- Today we will visit the Biltmore Estate, as magnificent today as it was when it was built over a century ago. Tour the impressive home this morning, and then stroll through the gardens, enjoy lunch (on your own), visit Antler Hill Village and the Biltmore winery. Return to Asheville mid-afternoon, but if you choose to stay longer it's a quick cab/Uber ride back to town. An optional "Rooftop Tour" is offered, taking you in to the "attic" of the Biltmore and out on the rooftops.

Monday, August 31, 2020- Pack your bags and checkout of the hotel. Depart Asheville this morning, transferring to the Charlotte Airport, our nonstop flight home, and final transfer back to McPherson ... arriving home late afternoon.

For questions contact:

Debbie Hawkinson, McPherson Chamber 620-241-3303 chamberdirector@mcphersonks.org or Cindy Krehbiel, McPherson Travel Center, 620-241-5830 or cindy@mcphersontravel.com

Find out more about Asheville at www.exploreasheville.com



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2019 - 2020 Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

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chamber events

January

23 9:30 am Chamber Connections hosted by McPherson Buzz @ 121 W. Marlin, Ste. 410
11:00 am Lakeside Plaza Bd. Meeting @ Chamber office, 306 N. Main
11:30 am Chamber Board Meeting @ Chamber office, 306 N. Main
30 9:30 am Chamber Connections hosted by Grace Med @ Chamber office, 306 N. Main
2:00 Ribbon Cutting for 5 Loaves, 900 W. Kansas

February

5 12:00 am Leadership McPherson Advisory Committee @ Chamber office, 306 N. Main
6 9:30 am Chamber Connections hosted by McPherson Family YMCA, 220 N. Walnut

12 7:00 am Chamber Ag Committee Mtg. @ K-State Research & Extension, 600 W. Woodside
11:30 am Leadership McPherson Alumni Lunch & Learn @ McPherson Public Library, 214 W. Marlin
4:00 pm Chamber Classic Meeting @ Chamber office, 306 N. Main
13 9:30 am Chamber Connections hosted by Integrated Health & Wellness Center, 1319 E. First.
20 9:30 Chamber Connections hosted by Peoples Bank & Trust, 101 S. Main
24 6:00 pm Farm Forum @ First United Methodist Church, 1200 E. Kansas

Save the Dates:

- Wednesday, March 18th Chamber Power Hour ½ @ Three Rings Brewery.
- Saturday, March 21st Legislative Coffee @ KMU.
- Saturday, April 25th Mac County Round Up 5K/1 Mile.
- Wednesday, May 6th OMEGA Award Presentation @ May Fete.
- Friday, June 5th Chamber Classic “Par-Tee On” Golf Tournament @ Turkey Creek Golf Course.
- Friday, July 24th Rural Appreciation Picnic @ McPherson County 4-H Fair.



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 sign-up 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.*

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

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.

“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.** Tickets are \$15 per person, for the presentation and evening meal catered by Knackies Meats & Sweets. Tickets are required to attend and must be purchased by February 20th at the Chamber office, at 306 N. Main.

We hope you will join us for this powerful presentation. We will also be recognizing Gary & Eileen Patrick as the 2019 Farm Family, and the McPherson County Fire Departments will be the 2019 Friend of Agriculture honorees.

Leadership Development through Effective Communication

One of the pathways to becoming an effective leader is the ability to communicate during difficult and emotional conversations. Journal Talks are designed to assist you in this practice. Journal Talks are a small group conversation series on difficult subjects based on content from The Journal, the Kansas Leadership Center's civic leadership magazine. Journal Talks encourage participants to discuss issues using KLC's principles and competencies of leadership as guideposts. Participants are encouraged to be open to different points of view and practice conversing with others on difficult, emotional issues that impact society. The goal is a thoughtful, engaging discussion on a divisive topic.

Leadership McPherson Alumni are invited to be a part of the conversation on Wednesday, February 12th from 11:30-1:00. This Leadership Alumni Lunch & Learn event will be held at the McPherson Public Library and the \$10 cost includes lunch. Please stop by the McPherson Chamber, 306 N. Main St. to sign up by Feb. 7th, or give us a call at 620-241-3303.

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