

The Chamber Business Journal

MAY 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

Welcome New Chamber Member

Prairie Pointe Residences
915 Stearman, McPherson
Phone: 620-504-6065
Contact: Nachee Ridgeway
Website: prairiepointe.rentourspace.com
Facebook: [Prairie Point McPherson](#)

Prairie Pointe Residences is excited to be a part of the Chamber. The **Prairie Pointe Residences** community was built in 2015 and has provided beautiful, affordable housing to many McPherson and surrounding area residents. The folks at **Prairie Point Residences** know that choosing your home is important and keeping that in mind they focus on your needs and assist you in finding the perfect space to suit your lifestyle. Their apartment community offers duplexes and townhomes, with two- or three-bedroom options. The office hours for **Prairie Pointe Residences** are Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. and by appointment only Saturday and Sunday.

Welcome back

Legacy Lawns LLC, a multi-generational lawn care business located at 633 5th Ave. in Inman. Some of their services include a lawn care program, core-aeration, and lawn renovations. They can be reached at 620-585-2378. Visit **Legacy Lawns** Facebook page to learn more!

Save the NEW Date

The McPherson Chamber Classic
“Par-Tee On” Golf Tournament will be
Friday, September 25th.

Chamber Impacts Future Ag Leaders with AFA Scholarship

Rachel Harman, a senior at Inman High School, has been awarded the 2020 Agriculture Future of America (AFA) Scholarship for McPherson County. Rachel plans to attend Kansas State University and attain a 5-year masters’ degree in Medical Lab Science, a secondary degree in Nutritional Sciences and a minor in Animal Science.

The McPherson Chamber of Commerce Ag Committee partners with Agriculture Future of America to support the AFA Leader and Academic Scholarship for McPherson County. In addition to individual and business donors, the McPherson Chamber Agriculture Committee raises funds for the scholarship with the annual Farm Forum and the Mac County Round Up 5K/1 Mile Run.

Since 2000 the McPherson Chamber Agriculture Committee has awarded 30 full leadership and academic scholarships and 12 leadership conference only scholarships. AFA’s partnerships have awarded more than \$9 million in academic and leader development scholarships and have impacted 19,000 college leaders and young professionals since its inception in 1996.

Rachel Harman will receive a \$3,200 AFA Academic Scholarship in addition to sponsoring her \$1250 AFA Leaders Conference fee. This event in Kansas City, Missouri, is attended by over 800 top agriculture students from across the nation each year.

The McPherson Chamber Agriculture Committee continues to partner with AFA to build bridges for young leaders to foster engagement and innovation in food and agriculture. More information about AFA can be found at www.agfuture.com

We wish Rachel Harman the best of luck in pursuing her education goals in field of agriculture. Congratulations!



Would YOUR Business Benefit from a Grant of Up To \$50,000?

The City of McPherson will be applying for Community Development Block Grant – Corona Virus (CDBG-CV) Funds and the McPherson Chamber wants to assist them in reaching the businesses that could potentially benefit. Please take a moment to learn about who could qualify and then contact City Administrator Nick Gregory, so that he has the data to support the need for the CDBG-CV funds in the City’s grant request.

To qualify, you must have between 1-50 employees that would be retained, and 51% of full-time equivalent employees in total would meet the low-to-moderate (LMI) household income for McPherson County. For McPherson County the household income limits are as follows: Number In Household/LMI Income: (1)/ \$40,850; (2)/ \$46,650; (3)/ \$52,500; (4)/ \$58,300; (5)/ \$63,000; (6)/ \$67,650; (7)/ \$72,300; (8)/ \$77,000.

The City is considering applying for the maximum amount of \$300,000.00 but will have to justify the need. As a result, the City is trying to gauge interest from local business and industry.

Funds can be used for things including but not limited to:

- Working capital such as wages, utilities, rent, etc.
- The purchase of 60 days’ worth of inventory needed to reopen (60 days will begin on the day the business is allowed to reopen).

Grant funds cannot be used to pay off:

- Existing debt
- Expenses that have been specifically reimbursed by other federal funds.

Businesses may be eligible for the following amounts:

- For businesses with 1-5 employees, up to \$25,000 per FTE can be awarded, with a maximum funding of \$30,000 per company.
- For businesses with 6-50 employees, up to \$35,000 per FTE can be awarded, with a maximum funding of \$50,000 per company. Agriculture businesses would be eligible, but churches and schools would not.

As part of the grant, the City will determine how funds will be allocated. If you believe that your business is a strong candidate for this program and that it would help retain employees, please contact City Administrator Nick Gregory at (620)245-2535 or via e-mail at nickg@mcpcity.com by Thursday, May 21st.

You may also visit the Kansas Department of Commerce at www.kansascommerce.gov for more resources.

Double Your Donation

Leadership McPherson, a program of the McPherson Chamber of Commerce, is offering to match contributions up to \$8500 for the weekend food program, and other needed programs to serve children as part of the COVID-19 Recovery Fund. The weekend food program is not funded by USDA. The match is made possible by the Children’s Fund administered at the McPherson County Community Foundation. The fund was originally established by the Kansas Health Foundation in 2001 for charitable purposes to improve the health and well-being of children living in the area served by Leadership McPherson.

Donations are accepted online at www.mcphersonfoundation.org. To acknowledge the Leadership donation, please click the “Donation in Memory/Honor” and type “Leadership” in the box. Donations may also be sent to the McPherson County Community Foundation, PO Box 822, McPherson, KS 67460.



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DQ GRILL & CHILL WINNERS

Congratulations to
Nooks & Crannies Floral, 113 N. Main.
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.

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

Outstanding McPherson Eighth Graders Demonstrate Goodness

“Goodness is about character, integrity, honesty, kindness, generosity, moral courage, and the like. More than anything else, it is about how we treat other people” This quote by Dennis Prager perfectly illustrates the ideals that apply to the OMEGA recipients.

The Outstanding McPherson Eighth Grade Award (OMEGA) was created by the McPherson Chamber of Commerce to recognize 8th graders in McPherson County for making a difference in our community through their courage, compassion, and service. These characteristics are apparent in the good choices they make and how they treat others.

The following McPherson County 8th grade students were nominated by teachers, pastors, neighbors, grandparents, youth leaders and community members who appreciate their compassionate gestures, value their positive attitudes and have noticed how their considerate actions have impacted the lives of all those around them.

We are so proud of these incredible eighth graders and are honored to present the 2020 OMEGA awards to these deserving recipients: Gunner Schumacher, Mallory Koelling, Lucy Bowman, LilyAnn Janzen, Lacie Baxter, Nathan Reinecker, Emily Lance, Makenna Cass, and Slade Wiley. Keep reading to learn about the impact they are making in their unique and inspirational way.

Gunner Schumacher- Compassion and caring are two ways others describe McPherson eighth grader Gunner Schumacher. Gunner sticks up for the underdog and is willing to help anyone, even when it is not the popular thing to do. Generosity and thoughtfulness are also character traits Gunner demonstrates daily. During this COVID-19 crisis Gunner stepped up to help those in his neighborhood. At Easter time he hid eggs for the younger neighbor kids, and when hearing that some of his older neighbors wanted some ice cream, but didn't feel comfortable going out to get it, Gunner delivered some to their doorsteps with a smile and a wave. Thank you, Gunner, for your generosity and compassion in making the day brighter for those around you!

Mallory Koelling- Being active in extra-curricular activities and showing exemplary leadership skills sums up McPherson eighth grader Mallory Koelling. One can easily see why she is referred to as a world changer and a leader. Mallory helped lead the peaceful #Enough Rally, assisted by her youth pastor after the mass shooting at a Florida school. Speaking out regarding the right to attend school safely without the fear of gun violence took a lot of courage, which clearly Mallory has. Thoughtful and caring also describes Mallory. During the COVID-19 crisis she stepped up, on her own initiative, to help her peers by tutoring some of them online while school is closed and with a friend delivered May baskets to others. Serving others, kindness, patience, inspiring ... this defines who Mallory Koelling is. Mallory, your thoughtfulness in helping others and your skills at being a leader will take you far on your road to success.

Lucy Bowman- Known to those around her as a beautiful example of maturity, intelligence and talent, McPherson eighth grader Lucy Bowman, is an obvious choice for the Outstanding McPherson Eighth Grade Award. Compassionate, caring, and kind are just a few of the adjective's others use when asked to describe Lucy. These qualities are reflected in her involvement in supporting the Malala Fund, an organization that invests in education programs for girls that miss out on secondary education. Lucy is very active in fundraising locally for the Malala Fund, as well as speaking to groups on behalf of girls' education. Inspiring and courageous are also ways to describe Lucy, who will enter high school at the age of 12. She is an accomplished musician, loves to sing, act, and has a heart as big as this earth. Lucy, you are a blessing not only to our community, but to others around the world.

LilyAnn Janzen- McPherson eighth grader LilyAnn Janzen is the kind of person who would do anything for anyone and not expect anything in return. Caring, helping, and putting others first are things that come very naturally to Lily. Her selflessness is apparent when she reaches out to others around her who are in need. She has compassion and desire to ease the burdens of those who are hurting. Even at a distance, her heart beats for others. Lily's empathy runs very strong. Strength, caring, and compassion define LilyAnn Janzen. Thank you, LilyAnn, for your caring, helpful attitude, and compassion for others.

Lacie Baxter- When you think about the things that make Inman eighth grader Lacie Baxter who she is --willingness and desire to help others comes to mind. Whether it's giving tips on how to be a good team manager or helping a new student feel comfortable and welcome at school, Lacie is there to help. Striving to do what is best for others is something Lacie takes seriously. This was demonstrated when she volunteered to run long-distance races just to help the track team score points. Qualities like this, are second nature to Lacie. Regardless of what issues Lacie encounters in or out of school, she approaches them with a positive attitude and caring heart. Lacie, what great traits you exemplify to others – keep it up!

Nathan Reinecker- Nathan is known as a hardworking, dedicated, compassionate, “never give up” kind of guy. Although deliberate and diligent with his studies, it is not uncommon for Nathan to sacrifice his learning time to help a classmate to understand and be successful with an assignment. He will face a daunting task and persevere until it has been completed. Nathan enjoys helping others and is always willing to lend a hand, run an errand, help on a project, or just be a good listener. Nathan, thank you for your shining example of perseverance, compassion, and dedication.

Emily Lance- Serving the Canton-Galva school in many ways whether her compassion and caring are seen in sports, cheerleading, or stepping up to be a leader, is Canton-Galva eighth grader Emily Lance. Emily's compassion for others was evident when she gave the proceeds from her lemonade & sandwich stand on Canton's Main Street, to those in need. Courage describes Emily as she faced the challenge of dealing with a concussion during basketball season. Standing up to this scary situation she never complained about it, but instead was there to support her team even though she had to do so from the sideline. Caring, looking out for those in need, and reaching out to help others. These things describe who Emily Lance is and what she does. Emily, your courage and compassion for others is a blessing to all.

Makenna Cass- She the kind of person who will step up and speak out for what is right, even if it is not the “popular” thing to do. Elyria Christian eighth grader Makenna Cass has many positive and uplifting qualities. Her deep compassion and concern for others is obvious as she is the first to volunteer to be a “buddy” to visiting students, helping them to feel welcome and comfortable. Makenna is known for being a great encourager to those who need a friend who will listen or pray with them. She has a servant's heart and is always there as a volunteer to help with whatever the project may be. Thank you, Makenna for the encouragement you give to others and the compassion that you show to all.

Slade Wiley- Serving others is something that comes naturally to McPherson eighth grader Slade Wiley. His desire to help others was typified when Slade took on the “50 Yard Challenge” sponsored by Raising Men Lawn Care Service. This program was established to inspire youth and to provide avenues for the younger members of our society to give back to their community. Through the course of a summer Slade faced this challenge and mowed 50 yards. He provided this service for veterans, single moms, disabled folks, and the elderly. He faced the 50 Yard Challenge head-on and persevered until the project had been completed. Slade, thank you for your spirit of perseverance and willingness to help others.



ROB MACKEY
Executive Director

THE GIFT

As the coronavirus threatened lives and livelihoods, we asked McPherson County residents about the impact of COVID-19 on them.

Initially, it was about shortages – toilet paper, disinfectant products, & hand sanitizer. Then businesses started shutting down and employment hours were being cut, meaning challenges with keeping a roof over one's head.

But United Way's Community Needs Survey also showed some bright spots. As the closure of my gym forced me outdoors to do my exercise, I noticed a lot of chalk drawings during my walks. Many brought a smile to me. One of our survey respondents said, “Our family baked cookies for others; we checked (in) on families; we did positive ‘chalk talk’ in our neighborhood.” Here are some other random acts of kindness both given and received:

- “(We) sent gift cards to our children's favorite teachers. “(We) made extra contributions to our church's outreach fund.”
- “Someone made us a home-cooked meal, another friend dropped off donuts another morning just to encourage us.”
- “(I've) left toilet paper in community boxes around town, purchased meals at restaurants, shared cleaning supplies and helped pay rent for a business on Main Street.”
- “I have been going to the store for family members who are not as healthy as I am.”
- “When we ordered our gro-

From the United Way of McPherson County

ceries for pick-up for Dillon's, we also put our neighbor's order on our bill – so they did not need to go to the house or leave their house.”

- “Talking to my friends at the Cedars through the window!”
- “I have been making fabric masks for the community.”
- “(I) mowed the yard of someone who is not able.”
- “Someone left 6 rolls of toilet paper on our doorstep.”
- “My students check in on me from time to time. They are so very thoughtful to greet me in our Zoom classes and by email. They are amazing young people.”

One woman told us that she was “scared that there is no one checking in on me.” So a United Way volunteer called and checked on her.

The United Way of McPherson Community Response and Recovery Fund was set up to assist people adversely affected by the pandemic – a loss of a job, a cut in working hours and other situations. Thanks to generous donors and the Kansas Health Foundation, we are providing assistance with basic needs for McPherson County. You can apply at our website at www.unitedwaymcpherson.org. We are staying busy on the phone talking to people trying to help them find answers.

A wise friend who battled cancer twice and lost a spouse once told me, “Sometimes it takes years to see the gift.” It's hard to imagine COVID-19 being a gift. It's taken so many lives and made so many more very painfully ill.

And yet people are spontaneously performing random acts of kindness; helping their neighbors and even people they don't know. These glimmers of light are beginning to emerge as gifts amid these dark days. I imagine there are many more yet to be revealed to us.

From Our Family ...To Yours

Your Confidence Is Our Reputation

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