

The Chamber Business Journal

August 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 Members

Tammy's Country Catering
1935 Hwy. 56, McPherson
Phone: 620-245-7527
Contact: Tammy Nestor
Facebook: Tammy's Country Catering

Tammy's Country Catering is a family owned business, owned, and operated by Tom and Tammy Nestor. They can cater any event or gathering you might be planning, like a wedding, company meeting, family reunion, private party, or whatever that special event may be! You may need box lunches for a company retreat or want a special meal for a wedding rehearsal. Whatever the occasion, **Tammy's Country Catering** will take care of you! Their catering services also offers gluten free, vegan, and vegetarian options. Some of their other services include cake decorating, cupcakes, cookies and even bierocks. **Tammy's Country Catering** will prepare appreciation baskets filled with goodies that can be personalized for any special celebration or occasion, like a birthday, anniversary, or retirement! When you need catering, give **Tammy's Country Catering** a call. Their great food will make your event memorable!

Primary Residential Mortgage
801 N. Main, McPherson
Phone: 620-200-0840
Contact: Crystal Miller
Facebook: Primary Residential Mortgage- Crystal Miller
Website: www.CrystalClearMortgages.com

Crystal and her team at **PRMI** provide the McPherson County and surrounding area with more than just competitive interest rates for mortgages - they also offer a wide variety of home loans to meet almost any buyer/borrower's needs. **PRMI** offers VA, 0% Down USDA, FHA, Conventional 3% Down, Renovation Loans and Reverse Mortgages. The **PRMI** team goes the extra mile to be able to provide not only education to their clients and referral partners but also top-notch communication. There are always questions in the home buying process, a great experience begins with everyone being on the same page and well prepared.

Let's PAR-TEE ON at the Chamber Classic!

Clear your calendar for the afternoon of Friday, September 25th, and plan to join us with your golf team, or as a sponsor, at the Chamber Classic "Par-Tee On" Golf Tournament at Turkey Creek Golf Course. Teams will kick off their good time with a lunch "Par-Tee" by Reach Solutions during check in at 11:30. Tee-Off will be at 12:30, then teams will "Par-Tee On" with 18 holes of unforgettable, unconventional & nontraditional golf! Enjoy Papa Murphy's Pizza as we continue to "Par-Tee On" during the awards celebration!

Sponsor Opportunities -Promote your business with swag, deck out a pop-up tent, challenge golfers with a "Par-Tee" game or be a part of the tournament with other sponsor opportunities. Don't wait, get signed up by September 3rd for full marketing exposure. Give us a call at 620-241-3303 to discuss unique game ideas.

Sign Up Your Team Today-4-person scramble. Team fees include lunch, dinner, 18 holes of golf with carts, golfer "Par-Tee" favor, celebration swag from sponsors, "Par-Tee" games at each hole and prizes too. An afternoon of fun for only \$350 a team. Businesses that are wood sponsors can sign up a team for only \$300.

Sponsor and Team Registrations can be downloaded at www.mcphersonchamber.org or email chamber@mcphersonks.org

Chamber Health Benefits Program

A Crucial Piece to Recruiting and Retaining Talent

The McPherson Chamber recognizes that recruiting and retaining talent is vital for business and industry of all sizes, and health insurance benefits are a crucial piece to that success. That is why we introduced NexUS Health Plans; a unique health benefits program designed for our Chamber members. NexUS Health Plans is a comprehensive and affordable benefit program available to those with an employee base of 2-500.

As a benefit of McPherson Chamber membership, our members will receive preferred pricing (a 5% discount on premiums) for their group health coverage through ProviDr's Care's NexUs Health Plans program. Our members can take advantage of economies of scale pricing. The NexUS Health Plans program offers the flexibility of level-funded group health coverage with the key features of cost containment, integrated wellness, value-based payments, care coordination, and disease management. It's time to navigate beyond traditional group health products for a more strategic approach to managing healthcare costs - one that addresses employee health behaviors while still providing great benefits. What makes NexUS Different? Find out more at www.mcphersonchamber.org.

Some days you just breath in... Some days you're living

"You don't know how much courage it took for me to come here today." I overheard this from an elderly lady who had asked her daughter to bring her to McPherson to shop at several McPherson stores for her birthday. I'm sure part of the appeal was spending time with her daughter, but she chose McPherson! That moment has been on my mind ever since. Not only did this sweet lady admit that she would have to quarantine for two weeks when she returned from her outing, she specifically said she had wanted to visit "that Chimney place" ~The Stone Chimney. Apparently, The Stone Chimney had made quite an impression on her because it had been many years since she had been able to shop there. She also mentioned that she wanted to visit The Cook's Nook and a few other McPherson stores while she was in town.

So many positive vibes have stuck with me since that day. I keep thinking, what a wonderful reminder of the incredible businesses and shopping experiences we have in McPherson. It gave me a new perspective on the courage that it takes for some to put on a mask and shop in-person again and was a terrific example of living!

When the pandemic began, I sometimes felt like I needed to remind myself to just keep breathing. I suppose that was better than holding my breath, waiting for the world to magically transform back to normal. But just breathing isn't enough. In the midst of all the uncertainty, I never stopped noticing all of the good in the world, appreciating all of the blessings that surround us and looking for ways to help, but sometime I felt like I was "on hold" waiting to make plans for someday. I think the shopping experience was the perfect wakeup call that it is someday, and time to get out and start living life to the fullest. It is ok to be cautious and I recommend following safety guidelines, but you can do all of that and still support our local businesses and help our community thrive.

The challenges we continue to face have given us opportunities to help our neighbors, businesses, teachers, law enforcement officers, and our community in ways that will always be remembered. We have proven that we are resilient, that we are innovative and that we care. Sometimes simple gestures, sometimes rather extensive programs have been implemented by a community filled with amazing people, coming together to build each other up. These kind gestures are what I call living. Living a life of significance to help others, making our community stronger.

"What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we leave." -Nelson Mandela

New Fiscal Year, New Board of Directors

While the main areas of focus for the McPherson Chamber of Commerce remain promoting our community and members by providing business connections, educational opportunities, communications and marketing, encouraging new business start-ups, expansions, and community development, your chamber is always planning and investing for the growth and future, through new initiatives and goals implemented each year to tackle issues or enhance the Chamber's role in the community. Along with the McPherson Chamber staff consisting of Executive Director Debbie Hawkinson, Executive Assistant Michael McGowan, and Program Assistant Shirley Mackey, the Chamber board plays a vital role in evaluating, modifying, and offering new programs and services to our members.

The 2020-2021 Executive Committee will be made up of Kendra Oakes (Peoples Bank and Trust) as President, Lauren Hughes (Wise & Reber L.C.) as President-Elect, Alex Graber (Graber's Ace Hardware) as Past-President, and Justin Kaufman (Swindoll, Janzen, Hawk & Loyd) as Treasurer. In addition, the Chamber welcomes 4 new members to its board as of September 1, 2020, representing a wide range of industries and backgrounds. Beginning three-year terms are Craig Druecker (Midway Motors), Dr. Patrick Romm (Integrated Health and Wellness Center), Jackie Christiansen (CHS Refinery), and Lauren Hughes (Wise and Reber).

Continuing their service on the board is Amy Beckman (McPherson College), Shannon Brake (McPherson Public Library), Ryan Hicks (Farmers Alliance Mutual Insurance), Jeff Reitz (JAR Performance Automotive), and Eric Wicker (Viega). The McPherson Chamber values the connections and opportunities to collaborate with Ex-Officio board members Mayor Tom Brown (City of McPherson), Ann Engel (McPherson Main Street), Joni Regnier (McPherson CVB), and Kasi Morales (MIDC).

The Chamber also looks forward to recognizing the service and dedication of their retiring board members at the Chamber Annual Meeting on Wednesday, November 18th. Board members who will have finished their terms at the end of August 2020 are Chuck Singleton (Central States Marketing and Manufacturing), Aaron Mayfield (Edward Jones), Kelly Pitts (PrairieLand Partners) and Dr. Trent Timson (Community Foot Clinic of McPherson).



Debbie Hawkinson,
Executive Director,
McPherson Chamber
of Commerce

DQ GRILL & CHILL WINNERS

Congratulations to Baldwin Creative Services, 988 9th Ave., McPherson, Winner of the DQ cake. Thank you, Roger and Karen Horn, owners of DQ Grill and 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

*To view the Community Calendar for McPherson County, visit www.mcphersonchamber.org

August

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| 27 9:30 a.m. Chamber Connections & Ribbon Cutting for the Butterfly Garden @ The Cedars 11:30 a.m. Chamber Board meeting @ Chamber office, 306 N. Main | 16 9:00 Leadership McPherson Class session #4 @ FUMC, 1200 E. Kansas
17 9:30 Chamber Connections - Hosted by the McPherson Convention and Visitors Bureau @ the McPherson Community Building, 122 E. Marlin
24 9:30 Chamber Connections @ TBD 11:30 Chamber Board meeting @ Chamber office, 306 N. Main
25 11:30 Chamber Classic Golf Tournament @ Turkey Creek Golf Course, 1000 Fox Run
30 9:00 a.m. Leadership McPherson Class session #5 @ FUMC, 1200 E. Kansas |
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September

- | | |
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| 2&3 All Day- Leadership McPherson attending virtual Your Leadership Edge training through KLC
3 9:30 Chamber Connections @ TBD
7 Labor Day Holiday- Chamber office closed
10 9:30 Chamber Connections @ TBD | |
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Grant Funds Available for Businesses and Non-Profits

The Strengthening People and Revitalizing Kansas (SPARK) Taskforce has approved more than \$130 million in relief funding for economic development and connectivity in the state. These dollars are being awarded in the form of grants to eligible businesses. Information can now be found online at kansascommerce.gov/covidrelief. **Grant applications will be accepted beginning at 12:00 p.m. Wed., Aug. 19, 2020.**

“These funds will both provide necessary immediate relief to businesses and contribute to a more strategic, competitive Kansas economy in the future,” said Governor Kelly.

In addition to providing financial relief, grants will be available to businesses whose products and services will be needed in greater volume to help combat the virus and its effects. These grants are funded through the Coronavirus Relief Fund of the federal CARES Act.

Applications for grants are being made available in the following categories:

- **Small Business Working Capital Grants** -Kansas businesses with fewer than 500 employees are eligible to apply for Small Business Working Capital grants. Funds can be used to pay working capital expenses such as payroll, rent, mortgage insurance, utilities, inventory and more. Grants will be awarded on a rolling basis until funds are depleted.
- **Securing Local Food Systems Grants** -The Securing Local Food Systems grant program was created to support Kansas meat processing facilities, food processors, grocers and food banks to address food for human consumption supply chain disruptions as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- **PPE Procurement Grants** -The PPE Procurement grant program will award businesses funds for the purchase of personal protective equipment (PPE), implementation of workplace redesigns, additional signage, new technology solutions for distance working and other items to comply with COVID-19 public health guidelines on safely returning employees to work.
- **PPE Manufacturing Grants** -PPE Manufacturing grants will provide funding to manufacturers to reimburse certain costs to manufacture critically needed PPE. The grant funding will assist entities with creating new business while contributing to the fight against the current COVID-19 public health emergency.
- **COVID-19 Bioscience Product Development Acceleration Grants** -Kansas has a strong pipeline of bioscience related companies developing SARS-CoV2 diagnostic, therapeutic and medical counter measures. This grant program will accelerate commercialization and go-to-market strategies, allowing these Kansas companies to quickly deploy novel technology by optimizing value and reducing risk through informed decision making.
- **Connectivity Emergency Response Grants** -The Connectivity Emergency Response Grant (CERG) was created to address the increased need for connectivity in Kansas in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Proposed projects should improve connectivity to unserved and underserved areas of Kansas to address the needs of telework, telehealth, distance learning and other remote business services.
- **Broadband Partnership Adoption Grants** -The Broadband Partnership Adoption Grant will provide support for low-income households by partnering with ISPs to leverage their existing adoption infrastructure and assure connectivity to as many Kansans as possible.
- **Domestic Supply Chains Fortification Grants** -This grant will help offset the business disruptions to Kansas companies supply chains caused by COVID-19 and assist with relocating jobs to Kansas from outside of the US.
- **IT, Cybersecurity & IT Project Management Certification Training Grants** -To mitigate the job losses in Kansas as a result of COVID-19, the Kansas Department of Commerce is seeking a rapid response training program that will provide training, certificate testing and job placement assistance in the areas of IT, cybersecurity and IT project management.
- **Higher Education Advanced Manufacturing & IT Equipment Grants** -This program will support the needs of the advanced manufacturing industry in Kansas. The program will focus on reskilling/upskilling individuals affected by COVID-19 to meet economic sector needs in high-demand, high-wage occupations.

Details on each category, including award amounts, proposal requirements, eligibility and more can be found at kansascommerce.gov/covidrelief.

Families and Faces Behind the Chamber Businesses

The more we get to know our Chamber members, the more they become friends and seem like family. When you know the people who own or manage the local businesses, the more you realize how connected we all are. Many have come from all corners of the world and have incredible stories to tell, while others have grown up in the area and stay or move back because they realize what a special community McPherson is. Our hope is that as you enjoy “getting to know” your business neighbors through their stories, you will appreciate their commitment, passion, and enthusiasm, and understand the value of shopping local. Not only is your investment staying local, it is making a huge impact on the families who own or operate businesses and is instrumental in building our incredible community!

Read all of the stories at www.mcphersonchamber.org
#McPhersonChamberFamilies

Chamber Connections Are Back!

We have missed seeing all of you and having the opportunity to catch up on what is happening in your business or organization, and what is important in your life. The McPherson Chamber has taken into consideration the safety precautions and the need for conversation and making important connections. We are excited to begin our new normal of being able to interact in a safe environment. Our initial Chamber Connection will also be a ribbon cutting to celebrate the Butterfly Garden at The Cedars. The outdoor event on Thursday, August 27th will include wearing masks, standing or sitting while spaced appropriately, and individual pre-packaged refreshments, Please join us at 9:30 a.m. if you are comfortable doing so, and bring a lawn chair if you prefer to sit.



ROB MACKEY
Executive Director

From the United Way of McPherson County

We also provide an equipment fund for McPherson residents for all types of disabilities and all ages who need financial assistance for medical equipment and assistive technology, which could be anything from ramps to van lifts, to communication devices to home modifications, and much more.

These devices are often very expensive, and they can present a financial hardship for people and their families. Often times, the things that we cover, insurance will not cover at all, or will only partially cover. And these are really, really expensive items, so it's difficult for people to afford them. What we do is partner with agencies like United Way and other funders to create funding packages for each client. That way, McPherson families remain financially stable, while still securing the equipment that they need to live independently to go to school, go to work, get out into the community. We can typically leverage about four dollars for every one dollar we spend on each client. The United Way funding we receive really helps us secure this equipment, so we can be wise about how we spend our money. So with United Way of McPherson County, we're able to provide these services to residents. Without United Way help, we just could not serve as many people as we do.

United Way of McPherson County really makes us able to help as many people as we do.”

CPRF is another way United Way fights for the health of every person in McPherson County. Please support our annual campaign when it kicks off in September.

CPRF – HELPING THOSE WITH CEREBRAL PALSY AND MUCH MORE

The Cerebral Palsy Research Foundation is now known as CPRF. That's significant because they serve people of all ages with all types of disabilities, not just cerebral palsy.

CPRF is a partner agency with United Way of McPherson County. They receive annual funding to help McPherson County residents. We talked with Kacee Shuler, Director of Community Outreach, who explains:

“CPRF provides two services to McPherson County residents. We provide a wheelchair posture seating clinic, where we design, fabricate, and repair customized wheelchair seating. Posture seating is what you see beyond the wheelchair frame. It's a very specialized technique, of building a seating system that fully supports the user, including custom molded seats and back supports, in addition to customized drive mechanisms like chin drives and head control drives, depending on client function. We're one of only three Medicaid approved seating clinics, in Kansas, and we're the only seating clinic in the state south of the Kansas City area. We serve people with significant disabilities whose needs just can't be addressed by standard off-the-shelf wheelchair equipment.

From Our Family...To Yours

Your Confidence Is Our Reputation

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Troy Glidden - Director

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