

The Chamber Business Journal

December 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

The Locker Room Nutrition & Energy
101 N. Main St., McPherson, KS 67460
Phone: (620) 428-5852
Facebook: The Locker Romm Nutrition & Energy
Contact: Katie Murray & Orie McBratney

The Locker Room Nutrition & Energy is your new healthy alternative to fast food! They offer healthy smoothies that taste like ice cream, metabolism boosting teas, protein coffee, and more! They have over 100 flavors to choose from as well as a monthly rotating menu! By day they are a smoothie bar, but they also offer 1-on-1 nutrition coaching. **The Locker Room Nutrition & Energy** focuses on a healthy, active lifestyle while using the shakes and teas to reach your health goals! But when it comes right down to it, their number one focus is to create an uplifting community gathering space. **The Locker Room Nutrition & Energy** strives to be the bright spot in your day! Katie & Orie can't wait to meet everyone! Serving up shakes and smiles Monday-Friday 7am-6pm and Saturday 9am-3pm!

Kansas Hempire
202 N. Main, McPherson, KS 67460
Phone: (785) 515-2783
Website: Kansashempire.com
Facebook: @Kansas Hempire
Contact: Megan Carolan

Kansas Hempire was inspired by a mother who became passionate about hemp products and the power of hemp when learning how it changed her life and her family's. Established in 2019, **Kansas Hempire** has been known for their commitment to customer satisfaction. They believe that the customer always comes first - and that means exceptional products! Located at 202 N. Main, **Kansas Hempire** is open Monday-Friday 11 a.m.-7 p.m. and Saturday 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Annual Meeting Video is LIVE

We are excited to announce, with the gracious sponsorship of Peoples Bank & Trust and the talents of Dallas Pruitt, we are bringing the Chamber Annual Meeting to you in video form this year. The Annual Meeting is a time to reflect on the many programs and initiatives the Chamber has provided for our members and community. It also gives us the opportunity to recognize the Chamber board, staff, committees, and volunteers who are deeply appreciated for their commitment of time, for sharing their talents, and for working together to cultivate a vibrant community.

Instead of a 1.5 hour in-person event, we have shortened it to a 28-minute video. We hope you take time to watch the compilation of the years' activities, recognitions, future initiatives, information about the 2020 President's Award winner, and the 2020 Leadership Class Project presentation. You can watch during your lunch break or take in ½ of the video on your morning break and ½ during your afternoon break or even plan a "watch party" and relax for 28 minutes of great information.

BONUS- We are giving away a \$50 ChamberCheck to 2 lucky winners! Fill in the answers in the questionnaire while you are watching the video and be entered to win. Video and questionnaire links are found at www.mcphersonchamber.org or on the McPherson Chamber of Commerce Facebook page. Winners will be drawn on Friday, December 18th at noon.

The McPherson Chamber of Commerce is working on new initiatives and is committed to creating the Chamber you want today, tomorrow and in the future. Thank you for standing with us to foster a prosperous and resilient community. We appreciate you.

Chamber Health Benefits Webinar

The McPherson Chamber of Commerce is pleased to offer a health insurance option for Chamber members with an employee base of 2-500. Chamber members receive preferred pricing (5% discount on premiums) for group health coverage with NexUS Health Plans.

What makes NexUS different?

- Level-funded major medical plan designs
- Underwritten by "A" rated carriers
- Member savings averaging 5-15% in most cases
- Integrated wellness program and incentives
- Value-based payment model that ties physician payment to outcomes

Visit www.mcphersonchamber.org for more information about the program or join us for a virtual informational session via Zoom on **Tuesday, December 22nd from 9:30 am- 10:30 am.** To RSVP, email chamberdirector@mcphersonks.org or call the McPherson Chamber at 620-241-3303.

DQ GRILL & CHILL WINNERS

Congratulations McPherson Eye Care, 1323 E. First St., 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.



JOHN DEERE

620241-3553
800-364-4020

2401 E. Northview
McPherson, KS 67460



620-241-1220 • 120 W. Kansas • McPherson

www.sunflowerbank.com

Christmas Cheer - Buddy Style

It's supposed to be the season for Christmas Cheer, right? If you are struggling with the exhausting changes, expectations, and concerns of this crazy year, you are not alone. Maybe it is the daily stress that is dragging you down, or maybe your enthusiasm and drive occasionally hits a roadblock and you have to reach deep and reset your positivity and determination. The struggles are real.

If you are looking for ways to re-energize, laugh, and zap some Christmas Cheer back into your being, start by watching the 2003 Christmas movie Elf! Just seeing a picture of Buddy the Elf, with his face lit up with pure joy and his stance radiating excitement, lightens my mood.

Although I would not recommend drowning your spaghetti with maple syrup like Buddy, here are a few things that you may want to try.

- Bake some cookies for Santa, and yourself, and for your neighbors too.
- Have a Christmas movie marathon starting with Elf. It wouldn't be Christmas without watching the National Lampoons Christmas Vacation and Annabelle's Wish.
- Make snowflakes with your kids to hang throughout the house.
- Volunteer your time to help the many organizations making the holidays brighter for those in our community that need assistance.
- Have a (Zoom) Christmas carol singing party or get bundled up and sing outside a loved one's window to spread Christmas Cheer by "singing loud or all to hear."
- Definitely snuggle with your family and remind yourself of all your blessings.

Don't be a "cotton-headed ninny muggings" and let the season go by without filling your holidays with laughter and Christmas Cheer. Wishing you a blessed Christmas and a new year filled with kindness, motivation, and joy.



Debbie Hawkinson,
Executive Director,
McPherson Chamber of Commerce

Different Perspectives = Numerous Potential Solutions

Leadership McPherson and the McPherson Chamber of Commerce is teaming up with the Kansas Leadership Center and KDHE as part of the "Kansas Beats the Virus" statewide initiative to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

In a letter from Ed O'Malley, President and CEO of the Kansas Leadership Center, he talks about the urgency and the challenge that confronts our communities. "Businesses are struggling. Families are suffering. Hospitals are full." This is where your groups' perspective can create solutions. "Our audacious goal is to catalyze more than 1,000 small group meetings before the New Year. Out of those meetings will come a dramatic increase in the number of locally generated efforts and initiatives to reduce the spread of this deadly virus." O'Malley said their hope is "to inspire all Kansans to come up with their own version of what they can do to be architects for the common good."

The purpose of these meetings is to encourage groups to think creatively about what they can do to eliminate barriers and encourage healthy behaviors. Generating local solutions! These actionable items will look differently for every organization. Here are a few of the great ideas that have come from recent Kansas Beats the Virus group meetings.

- A team is going to purchase \$5 gift cards from local stores and gift them to those "caught" following COVID guidelines, to promote positive behaviors and support local businesses.
- A civic group is raising money to help with financial hardships of community members who need to stay home after a positive test.
- Neighbors create a safe, outdoor space in their front yard with heaters for teens to safely socialize.
- A church creates a network to handle shopping for elderly and at-risk members.
- Another group purchased a Zoom account to assist with virtual visits.
- A PTA purchases DoorDash gift cards so athletes can have post-game meals virtually.
- Students at a college are creating "quarantine kits," complete with health information, basic supplies, and few fun things too, with the goal of making staying in quarantine a little more doable for students.
- Another groups' idea is to show appreciation to overworked staff by way of postcards from clients.

If your group is interested in learning more about the initiative and hosting a meeting to have conversations and brainstorm additional ways your group can make an impact, email chamberdirector@mcphersonks.org or contact Debbie Hawkinson at the McPherson Chamber of Commerce 620-241-3303.

E-Community Loans Assist with Economic Growth

The McPherson County E-Community Loan program is available for business start-ups or expansions. It was created through the Kansas Center for Entrepreneurship Tax Credit Program and Network Kansas. The McPherson Chamber of Commerce administers the program to assist in the economic growth of our community.

The purpose of the E-Community program is to provide low interest loans to entrepreneurs wishing to start, purchase, or expand a business in McPherson County. The loans are to be used in partnership with a financial institution and/or a Network Kansas partner as the "final piece" of financing a business start-up or expansion.

To utilize the maximum 40% available from the E-Community Loan Fund, there is a 60% match required from either a bank or a Network Kansas Fund Partner. The minimum loan request is \$5,000 and the maximum is \$45,000. Funding is subject to a 1% below prime rate and loan terms can be 12-120 months. Length will be determined by the amount borrowed. Funds can be used for equipment, inventory, real estate and working capital.

Through the McPherson County E-Community Loan Program, 57 loans have been approved totaling over \$2,100,000! That amounts to a lot of added jobs and growth!

For questions, contact Debbie Hawkinson at chamberdirector@mcphersonks.org or visit www.mcphersonchamber.org to download an application from the business development tab.

2020 - 2021 Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

President- Kendra Oakes, Peoples Bank & Trust * President-Elect- Lauren Hughes, Wise & Reber L.C.

* Treasurer- Justin Kaufman, Swindoll, Janzen, Hawk & Loyd * Past President- Alex Graber, Graber’s Ace Hardware

* Board of Directors: Amy Beckman, McPherson College * Shannon Brake, McPherson Public Library

* Jackie Christiansen, Emprise Bank * Craig Druecker, Midway Motors Supercenter * Ryan Hicks, Farmers Alliance

* Jeff Reitz, JAR Performance Automotive * Dr. Patrick Romm, Integrated Health and Wellness * Eric Wicker, Viega

2020 Leadership McPherson Class -Sets Goals for Future

-By Jessie Wagoner

The McPherson Chamber of Commerce has led a Leadership McPherson class every year since 1982, and a pandemic wasn’t about to stop the tradition. While other leadership programs throughout the state put their programs on hold, McPherson forged ahead, implementing safety precautions and a smaller class size to ensure safety and success.

This year, nine McPherson professionals participated in Leadership McPherson; I was fortunate enough to be included in the group. Participants included myself, Mark Brinck, Hannah Huber, Tricia Bengston, Shanyn Boese, Marissa Edenstrom, Kylie Goering, Michael McGowan and Abby Trenkle. While there were only nine of us, we had a wide range of professions represented: law enforcement, banking, media, human resources and public services, to name a few.

The goal of Leadership McPherson is to develop effective leadership, open minds to perspectives that surround issues facing our community and enable participants to become more visionary leaders.

Over the course of six in-person sessions and two full days of leadership training through the Kansas Leadership Center, our group learned about different leadership styles, how to create a vision, different opportunities for community involvement and how to handle conflict.

“I really enjoyed learning more about the McPherson community and the opportunities to address the needs of the community,” Bengston said. “I also appreciated learning additional strategies for dealing with conflicts.”

One highlight of the program was the opportunity to learn from other community partners. Leadership McPherson alumni took the time to come and teach several of our sessions, sharing their experience and expertise with us. We also had visitors from community organizations come and share about issues critical to the McPherson community. Mental health, education, services for seniors, and housing were just a few of the topics.

One point that was driven home again and again was the idea that, “Leadership is an activity, not a position.” All of us have the ability to lead, regardless of the position or title we hold. We can all develop leadership skills, and we can display those leadership qualities in a variety of ways.

At the beginning of the class, we all chose a problem or situation we wanted to work on throughout the class time. For some of us, it was a professional goal; for others, it was a personal goal. Each week, as we learned new skills, we would move forward to meeting our goals. We developed the skills to push ourselves, handle disappointment, regroup and ultimately meet our goal.

“You can’t exercise leadership without experimenting,” McGowan says he learned during the class. “You need to develop the stomach to try something, fail, learn and experiment some more.”

Each Leadership McPherson class completes a class project. Projects are decided on by the group and must be something to benefit youth in McPherson. The chamber provides \$1,000 to be used toward the group project. Deciding on a class project proved to be more difficult than I thought it would be. There are so many areas of need in our community, especially during COVID-19. We all had great ideas and had to narrow it down to one focus.

Ultimately, we chose to focus on school supplies. When I moved to McPherson almost two years ago, I went to enroll my son in school and was shocked when I was asked to pay enrollment fees. In my hometown, public education is completely free, since our tax dollars already cover educational costs. With a lump in my throat, I wrote a check for enrollment fees, hoping it wouldn’t bounce before I got my first paycheck. Then as I went to leave, they handed me a list with school supplies that needed to be purchased. Again, I was shocked. Back home, the area churches provided all school supplies for children. All parents did was pay taxes, buy a backpack and send their children off to school. This was a whole new world, an expensive world.

There are several benefits to having school supplies provided by the community. Not only is it a cost savings for families, but it ensures teachers have all the

“McPherson -Where Santa Shops”

If you haven’t had the opportunity to enjoy the various holiday promotion events brought to you by the McPherson Chamber of Commerce and McPherson Main Street, it’s not too late. There are a few more Cookies with Santa and Free Holiday Movies this year. We understand the importance of traditional holiday activities, but also respect the need for extra safety precautions. Therefore, we have altered and adapted each event with that in mind. As we move forward with a delightful holiday line up filled with Christmas Cheer, we hope it brightens your day and adds to the success of our community businesses.

Enjoy Cookies with Santa

- Thursday, Dec. 17 (5-6:30 pm) @ KNGL /KBBE Radio Station, 411 E Euclid
- Saturday, Dec. 19 (9:30-11 am) @ Wendy’s, 610 N. Main
- Saturday, Dec. 19 (2-3:30 pm) @ Simply Good, 112 N. Main

Free Holiday Movies Still Showing- All movies are shown at the McPherson Opera House, 223 S. Main, and are free to the public. Masks must be worn until you are seated. Concessions will be available for purchase.

- Saturday, Dec. 19. “The Polar Express” showing at 3 pm and 7 pm.
- Sunday, Dec. 20 “White Christmas” showing at 3 pm and 7 pm.
- Tuesday, Dec. 22 “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer” & “Shrek the Halls” at 10:30 am and 7 pm.

Movies are sponsored by: The McPherson Opera House, Stockham Family Funeral Home, Peoples Bank and Trust, Ken D Cotton DDS, Elliott Insurance and Real Estate, Glidden Ediger Funeral Home, McPherson Coop Credit Union, Artshirt-Gear for Sport, H&R Block, MTC, First Bank Kansas, Midway Motors, KNGL-KBBE, Esther V. Rettig MDPA, The Stone Chimney, Chuck & Tammy Singleton, Home Sweet Home Realty- Teresa Pimentel, Creative Hairlines Salon and Spa, Compass Realty-Lanae Powell & Dana Regier, McPherson Rec. Commission.

We also wanted to share part of an e-mail from Diane at the McPherson Opera House, that was a nice reminder of why the McPherson Chamber and McPherson Main Street continue to organize the “McPherson Where Santa Shops” Holiday Promotion. “I want you to know how grateful the movie goes were this past weekend. Although I wasn’t here for the A Christmas Story yesterday, I was here on Saturday for both screenings of The Grinch. Taking the head count at the door gave me the chance to interact with guests. Just about every parent thanked us for doing the films; giving them something enjoyable to do with the family and get outside of the house for a few hours. I tell everyone that these events wouldn’t happen without Main Street, the Chamber, and the generous business sponsors.

“I know this is a strange time, but if it can help people - especially kids - feel normal for a little while, we’re glad we can be here. Thanks for making it happen this year.” -Diane Fallis, Executive Director, McPherson Opera House Company.

needed supplies. Teachers don’t have to worry about if some children bring supplies or if some don’t. They aren’t spending their own money filling gaps. It also removes the comparison issues of one child having nicer things than another student. If everyone has exactly the same thing in the amounts needed, it makes things a bit smoother for teachers.

Our class decided we wanted to provide school supplies for McPherson Elementary School students. Then we did the math. To provide school supplies for every elementary school student would have been more than \$40,000. In the midst of COVID-19, we didn’t think trying to raise that much money would be feasible. We also talked with school administration and the McPherson School Supply Train and felt like we needed to reevaluate.

The McPherson School Supply Train was started 1994 by Shirley Adams. She was a teacher, and it was her belief that every child should have new school supplies to start the year off, regardless of ability to afford those supplies. Kindergarten through fifth grade children on the free and reduced lunch program within USD 418 became the target audience for the McPherson School Supply Train. The School Supply Train is currently managed by Shirley Adams’s daughter, Marsha Silver, and Melody Elder. They are doing a fabulous job providing for elementary school students but were wanting to expand to provide supplies for middle school students. Once we learned about the McPherson School Supply Train, we were able to develop our objective.

“Our objective is to provide McPherson families in financial need, with children entering McPherson Middle School, the majority of school supplies needed for the 2021 school year and beyond,” Brinck said. “Helping to reduce the stress and financial burden parents may experience as they prepare to send their children off to school.”

Roughly 40 percent of McPherson Middle School students qualify for free and reduced lunches. Providing supplies would cost approximately \$7,000. Silver has donated \$1,000 from the school supply train funds to help, and we have \$1,000 so our group will soon begin fundraising efforts to raise the remaining \$5,000.

“We also want to gain greater exposure for the School Supply Train in McPherson through social media, a website, and fundraising opportunities,” Edenstrom said.

Our Leadership McPherson Class participated in a graduation ceremony and luncheon Wednesday. Our class sessions are over, but we will continue to meet as a group to complete our class project.

Though our class was different from previous years due to the pandemic, we still learned from the experience and developed a better understanding of the needs of the community. For me, the class was a bright spot during a challenging time. For the most part, I work alone. The class time gave me a chance to connect with other professionals and brainstorm new ideas. I feel more at home in McPherson because of the class, and I look forward to moving forward in leadership to help our community.

If you would like to assist our class with fundraising to complete our project, email jessie@mcphersonweeklynews.com or call the McPherson Chamber of Commerce at 620-241-3303. See more photos from the 2020 Leadership McPherson Class celebration on Facebook.

You Made My Christmas

Since April, United Way of McPherson County has been fighting to help people whose lives have been economically affected by the pandemic. We wanted to bring you up to date on the activities of the Community Response and Recovery Fund.

Sadly, active cases now are in the hundreds and we’ve lost several lives as we pass 2,000 confirmed infections. We are now in the worst phase of this crisis. United Way’s focus has been working to help people who lost their jobs or lost work hours due to COVID-19. United Way has helped 115 families. We have helped with 79 utility bills and 56 rent & mortgage payments, totaling \$52,552.12.

This money has been donated by the Kansas Health Foundation, the McPherson County Community Foundation, CHS Inc. and its employees, Williams Energy, as well as a number of generous individual donors. We could not have done this work without them.

We’ve been able to help food service workers, educators, hotel personnel, factory workers, and convenience store employees, just to name a few. COVID has roiled their workplaces, cost them jobs or cut their hours severely. Many people we’ve helped aren’t used to this – they haven’t had to ask for help before, and some were reluctant to try.

As United Way board member Dr. Lara Vanderhoof and I interviewed people for assistance and guided people



ROB MACKEY
Executive Director
United Way of McPherson County

through the available help, we heard from many of their appreciation: “I am so thankful that we have different avenues to help when we are in need. I would say the most wonderful part of this experience was how kind and giving you handled my situation. You will never know what a blessing this was to my family and me.” “Thank u so much. I can’t thank u enough, truly.” “God bless you all” “Thank you. That helps so much. You have no idea.” “I can breathe a sigh of relief.” “You guys are so awesome. It will help us out tremendously.” “That is amazing. I appreciate it so much.” “You made my Christmas!”

Thanks to all who helped provide some light during these very challenging times.

From Our Family ...To Yours

Your Confidence Is Our Reputation

GLIDDEN-EDIGER FUNERAL HOME

222 West Euclid, McPherson, KS
Phone (620)241-2550 24 hr. Service • gliddenedigerfuneral.com

Troy Glidden - Director

HASSMAN

Termite & Pest Control Inc.

*Termites • Roaches • Spiders • Silverfish
Ants • Clover Mites • Fleas*

Call 241-5260

www.hassmantermite.com



Member of Kansas & National Pest Control Associates



Peoples
Bank and Trust
Member FDIC

Faces You Know
People You Trust

www.Peoples.Bank




**SWINDOLL
JANZEN
HAWK &
LOYD, LLC**

Certified Public Accountants

123 South Main • P.O. Box 1337 • McPherson, KS 67460
(620) 241-1826 office 888-241-1826 toll free
(620) 241-2926 fax www.sjhl.com

*AUDITING • TAX SERVICES
CONSULTING SERVICES • PAYROLL*

**HOME
STATE
BANK** 
A Part of The Citizens State Bank
Member FDIC

McPHERSON, KANSAS

Main Bank 223 N. Main	East Bank 104 S. Centennial
North Bank 1300 N. Main	Auto Bank Maple & Euclid

HASSMAN

Termite & Pest Control Inc.

*Termites • Roaches • Spiders • Silverfish
Ants • Clover Mites • Fleas*

Call 241-5260

www.hassmantermite.com



Member of Kansas & National Pest Control Associates

Peoples
Bank and Trust
Member FDIC

Faces You Know
People You Trust

www.Peoples.Bank