

The Chamber Business Journal

May 2021

Community ~ Growth ~ Leadership ~ Vision

306 N. Main, McPherson, Kansas 67460 • Phone: 620-241-3303 • www.mcphersonchamber.org • Visit us on Facebook

Congratulations and Welcome New Member

Tractor Supply
1330 N. Main, McPherson
Contact: Merrilee Loder
Phone: 620-245-9900
www.tractorsupply.com

Tractor Supply Company, the largest rural lifestyle retailer in the United States, has been passionate about serving its unique niche, targeting the needs of recreational farmers, ranchers and all those who enjoy living the rural lifestyle, for more than 80 years.

Tractor Supply offers an extensive mix of products necessary to care for home, land, pets and animals with a focus on product localization, exclusive brands and legendary customer service for the Out Here lifestyle. With more than 42,000 Team Members, the Company's physical store assets, combined with its digital capabilities, offer customers the convenience of purchasing products they need anytime, anywhere and any way they choose at the everyday low prices they deserve. At March 27, 2021, the Company operated 1,944 Tractor Supply stores in 49 states and an e-commerce website at www.TractorSupply.com.

Join their team. **Tractor Supply** is filling opportunities for both new and existing positions with a focus on increased customer service and safety. Candidates can learn more and apply for a wide variety of job opportunities on their website or stop by the McPherson store at 1330 N. Main in McPherson.

Happy 100 Year Anniversary McPherson Chamber of Commerce!

100 Years Strong

May 3rd, 2021 marks a very important day for the McPherson Chamber of Commerce as we celebrate 100 years of serving the McPherson community. We are proud of the many milestones and the impact the Chamber has made throughout the years, and we plan to celebrate for months to come. Be looking for snippets of our rich history, the visionary leaders and what they accomplished, and some fun photos we have discovered. As we celebrate the past, we also look to the future and what initiatives the Chamber will focus on for a better and stronger tomorrow. Thank you for being a part of our story!

Although some of our scope has evolved, other aspects of the original McPherson Chamber of Commerce charter hold true to this day. Enjoy this excerpt from the original 1921 Charter which states that the purposes for which it is formed are: "To promote the commercial and civic interests of the city of McPherson and advance its industries; to foster and encourage the development and promotion of new enterprises; extend its trade limits; develop the resources of the community; to buy, hold, and sell real estate and personal property; to do all other things common to the objects and purposes of commercial organizations; to cement a closer friendly feeling among the members of the association; to create a higher moral atmosphere within the community and to encourage a better understanding between the businessmen, the farmer and other citizens and inhabitants in and around the city of McPherson."

Not Much Change in Office Locations

In searching for the original office location, which was not noted in the 1921 charter, the only clue we found was in the early Chamber Board minutes. The minutes indicate that the board of directors met in the "Directors Room" in the late 1920's and mentioned they occasionally met at the McCourt Hotel in the 1930's. The McPherson Library history database shows the address of the McCourt Hotel (formerly the Union Hotel) was located at 201 N. Main from 1930-1947 then 104W Marlin in 1966) *A side tidbit-The McCourt Hotel was owned by George McCourt, the first mayor of McPherson, KS who also owned the livery stable.*

We did find a photo published in the 9/24/1954 Republican paper of the "new" office location for the McPherson Chamber of Commerce. The caption says "part of the new office quarters of the McPherson Chamber of Commerce in the new Price building in the 100 block on North Ash Street." (which is 118 N. Ash) "The offices have been equipped with modernistic and attractive furnishings."

After residing at 118 N. Ash for "slightly more than 25 years" records show that the McPherson Chamber then moved to 308 N. Main. (actually 306 N. Main). Newspaper article reads "ECCO, Inc. agreed to purchase the building and remodeled a portion of the facility to fit the needs of the Chamber. Work was completed in late 1977. The Chamber moved into the new facility in early December, 1977. And 306 N. Main is where you will still find us today! Come see us!

Outstanding 8th Graders are Honored

The McPherson Chamber of Commerce continues to honor 8th grade students for their courage, compassion, and service. The Outstanding McPherson Area Eighth Grade Award (OMEGA) was created by the McPherson Chamber and coincides with the origin of All Schools Day, to recognize 8th grade students. Each year 8th graders from McPherson County are nominated by the community for the OMEGA award. It is the perfect opportunity to share inspirational stories about young leaders who are making powerful and lasting impacts on those around them. Keep reading to learn why these 8th graders are being honored.

Jon Schroeder "Known by his teachers as a person who is not afraid to speak up when one of his classmates needs his support, as well as being a great example of showing compassion and kindness to others, Inman eighth grader Jon Schroeder is a clear choice for the Outstanding McPherson area Eighth Grade Award. Jon has overcome some personal challenges and faced many difficulties, but he is always working to make the best of each situation. Despite the overwhelming adversities he has had to face, Jon has consistently been on the Honor Roll throughout his junior high years. Jon is also very involved in school activities – participating in football, track, being the basketball manager, Quiz Bowl, and is active in his church youth group as well." *Thank you, Jon, for setting a good example to others in keeping your head up no matter what challenges you face!*

Ellie Bower "When one thinks about courage and what it means to be courageous, Ellie Bower immediately comes to mind. The courage she has demonstrated through this past year has been a beautiful example for those around her and makes her an obvious choice for the Outstanding McPherson area Eighth Grade Award. This past year has been a definite challenge for everyone, period! But for this McPherson eighth grader, the year also involved knee surgeries and rehab. This meant quarantines, being isolated from friends and teammates, and going through rehab – all during a time when the whole world had already been turned upside down by a pandemic. Ellie showed incredible strength and courage and despite it all she DID NOT GIVE UP! She persevered!" *Thank you, Ellie for showing us what real courage looks like!*

Kimber Schumacher "Overcoming obstacles, making the best of a situation, putting others first, putting a smile on someone else's face – these character traits describe Kimber Schumacher and makes her a perfect choice for the Outstanding McPherson area Eighth Grade Award. Due to a broken ankle this school year, McPherson eighth grader Kimber found herself unable to participate in track. Although heartbroken, this did not detour her. Even though she couldn't participate, Kimber decided she would be a team manager. She decided she would cheer on her teammates and help the coach. Kimber looks for opportunities to put others first. She helped care for a neighbor's animals and did small chores refusing any payment, helped raise money for local cancer fundraisers and the summer baseball program, and loves helping the younger children in the neighborhood." *Putting others first is a wonderful character trait. Thank you, Kimber for being a great example for us!*

Landon Schneider "Courage, compassion, and service sum up who Landon Schneider is. Known for being a genuine servant and leader, this Elyria Christian eighth grader enjoys reaching out and helping those around him. These important character traits Landon demonstrates makes him a deserving choice for the Outstanding McPherson area Eighth Grade Award. Going above and beyond to help others is a part of who Landon is. Whether it's stepping up to help the cleanup crew pick up trash after an event or helping teachers or other students when there is a need – Landon is there!" *Thank you, Landon for being a great example of looking beyond ourselves and seeking opportunities to help others!*

Ellie Seeger "Demonstrating leadership, learning responsibility, having good communication skills, showing concern for the community, and being willing to serve. These amazing life skills describe Outstanding McPherson area Eighth Grade Award recipient Ellie Seeger. As President of her 4-H Club, as well as being very active within the organization in several areas, this Moundridge eighth grader has developed leadership and taken on responsibility skills that will help her far into her future. Ellie strives to learn and is not put off by a challenge. Adapting to situations, thinking outside the box, or seeing a need then stepping up to help – this is just simply something that Ellie does!" *Thank you, Ellie for your enthusiasm and desire to serve your community.*

Dominic Dossett "Whether the task is easy or difficult, you know that this Outstanding McPherson area Eighth Grade Award recipient will give 110% effort! Elyria Christian eighth grader Dominic Dossett is always willing to tackle the situation without complaint and with full effort, working diligently until he has reached completion. If someone needs a job done, Dominic will be quick to offer the manpower needed to finish the job. Dominic's work ethic is to do his best in all areas – whether it's school, sports, or a community activity. He is a quiet leader, known to persevere through any situation. His concern for others is evident in how he treats those around him and is always one who steps up to help others." *Thank you, Dominic for your example of perseverance and willingness to help those around you.*

Congratulations OMEGA honorees!

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...To Yours*

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2020 - 2021 Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

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* 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

* Craig Druecker, Midway Motors Supercenter * Ryan Hicks, Farmers Alliance * Matt Grieb, CHS

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

"This is How We Roll" Chamber Classic Golf Tournament

Although we are at capacity on golf teams, you can still participate as a sponsor. The Chamber Classic Golf Tournament presents a unique opportunity to interact on the course, increase your exposure in the community, and build business relationships. Secure your spot to promote your business today!

\$250 Triple 777 Hole Sponsor:

- Bring your company pop-up tent, challenge golfers with a unique zany game and hand out bonus swag from your business or provide an overall prize for a progressive game.
- Exclusive signage at your designated tee box.
- Business shout-out during awards celebration.
- Recognition on Chamber website, tournament program, and social media.

\$150 Poker Run Sponsor:

- Signage on the golf course
- Recognition on Chamber website, tournament program, and social media.

Ace High Prize Sponsor:

- Donation of golf balls, flight prizes (increments of 4) or in-kind donations
- Recognition on Chamber website, tournament program, and social media.

Give us a call at (620) 241-3303 or email chamber@mcphersonks.org

We love to talk about the Chamber Classic!

50/50 Raffle Tickets are available for purchase at 306 N. Main or from any of the Chamber Classic Golf Tournament Committee until the day of the tournament. The winner will be drawn during the awards celebrations on June 4th, but you do not need to be present to win.

2021 AFA Scholarship Recipient Has Impressive Goals



Max Harman, a junior at Kansas State University, has been awarded the 2021 Agriculture Future of America (AFA) Scholarship for McPherson County!

This scholarship is made possible by the McPherson Chamber of Commerce Ag Committee in partnership with Agriculture Future of America. The Agriculture Committee has raised funds to support the AFA Leader and Academic Scholarship for McPherson County since 2000.

Max Harman will receive a \$3,200 AFA Academic Scholarship in addition to sponsoring his \$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.

When asked about his future goals, Max indicated that after he obtains his undergraduate degrees in Biochemistry and Global Food Systems Leadership at Kansas State University, he intends to earn his Ph.D. in plant genetics at a premier agriculture/plant science institution. Further explaining his ideal career path, Max said *"Using this foundation, I will research applications in biotechnology, particularly gene editing and CRISPR/Cas-9, to develop novel genetic traits in high-impact agricultural commodities. My long-term goal is to lead research and development efforts at one of the four premier global agriculture biotechnology companies."* Max also hopes to *"pursue projects directed toward alleviating mass-malnutrition and hunger in developing countries."*

Max is a great example of why the McPherson Chamber Agriculture Committee continues to partner with AFA to build bridges for young leaders, and to foster engagement and innovation in food and agriculture. More information about AFA can be found at www.agfuture.com.

We wish Max Harman all the best in his education goals, and are super excited about the influence his pursuits in the field of agriculture may have world-wide! Congratulations Max!

Recognizing the Impact of AFA Donors

We reached our goal! Thanks to the generous donations from individuals and businesses, and an anonymous donor who provided \$5,000 in matching dollars, we exceeded our current goal. Because of these contributions, the AFA Scholarship Endowment Fund at the McPherson County Community Foundation has exceeded \$50,000 and will help support our annual AFA Scholarship.

The McPherson Chamber of Commerce Ag Committee is dedicated to helping today's youth become tomorrow's leaders in agriculture. We greatly appreciate these donors whose investment will impact local students and the future of agriculture:

Cindy Baldwin, American Ag Credit, Joe Pavlovsky, Prairie Bank of Kansas, Countryside Feed LLC, McPherson Co. Farm Bureau, First Bank Kansas, The Trust Company of Kansas, Dennis & Mabel Friesen, Zeitlow Distributing, Max L. Streit Trust, Gregg & Judy Stockstill, Armin Nelson, Horizon Real Estate Services, Emprise Bank, McPherson Eye Care, Home State Bank, Dr. Ken Cotton, Everhart Precision Ag. Inc., Allan Sents, Terry Lacy, Glidden-Ediger Funeral Home, Krehbiels Specialty Meats Inc., Peoples Bank & Trust, Farmers Alliance Insurance, and Dale Ladd.

Since 2001, The McPherson Chamber of Commerce Agriculture Committee has partnered with Agriculture Future of America to offer an AFA Leader and Academic Scholarship. To date we have awarded 31 full \$4,450 academic and leader development scholarships and funded 12 additional \$1,250 leadership conference only scholarships, a total impact of \$130,700.00!

The Art of Aging

It takes about ten years to get used to how old you are. -- Unknown



ROB MACKEY
Executive Director

Aging can be a mystery. I guess it depends on whether you're paying attention. For many people life flashes by and then they wake up and realize, "I'm 28!" or "I'm 40!" or "I'm 64!" or "I'm 80..." Frankly, I marvel that I'm still here.

Through my work with United Way, I've learned of a wonderful resource that is focused on seniors – the McPherson County Council on Aging. Councils on aging were an outgrowth of the Older Americans Act in 1965. McPherson's was created in 1976 so they are turning 45 this year.

(Rob Mackey, Executive Director, United Way of McPherson County)

Council on Aging Executive Director Terry Bolte has managed the organization for nearly 8 years, after having led the Lindsborg Senior Center for a year.

With her accounting background, Bolte has helped hundreds of lower-income seniors with filing for property tax relief under the Kansas Homestead Act, obtaining assistance with utility bills through the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) and doing tax returns.

The Council on Aging also writes annual grants to provide local bus transportation in the communities of Inman, Lindsborg, McPherson, and Moundridge, providing an important lifeline especially for those no longer able to drive.

An independent network of local senior centers throughout the county meet monthly to share the work they are doing to help seniors build self-reliance and provide a gathering place for older residents to build relationships. United Way provides operational financial assistance to the centers which is administered by the Council on Aging. The senior centers are places to access good nutrition, exercise and recreation, and educational opportunities. "They provide a good social network," said Bolte.

The centers also offer foot care and blood pressure clinics among other services.

What are seniors most concerned about? "They're worried about whether or not their retirement or their Social Security is going to last them as long as they need it. Medical services are a big worry. That's why people keep getting roped into these Advantage plans," said Bolte. The Council on Aging is a great resource for senior health insurance counseling.

It's fair to say the local senior centers are a lifeline. In Terry Bolte's words: "It just keeps them out and engaged and active, they take better interest in their community. I think it gives people a better sense of purpose and a place to go other than sitting in their four walls being bored."

Our thanks to Terry Bolte and Council of Aging staff member Cindy Rundle, and all of the senior center directors around the county and their volunteers who are helping us age well.

You can reach the McPherson County Council on Aging at 620-241-4383.

DQ GRILL & CHILL WINNERS

Congratulations to Turbocharger Solutions International, 1404 Mohawk Rd, 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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