

The Chamber *September 2021* Business Journal

Community ~ Growth ~ Leadership ~ Vision

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

Welcome New Members

Sheets - Adams Realtors

1605 N. Main St.

Phone: (620) 241-3648

Contact: Julie Wenthe

Website: sheets-adams.com

Facebook: Realtors Sheets Adams

A new chapter began in January of 2021 when Dale and Julie Wenthe purchased Sheets-Adams Realtors, and with that Julie became the new Managing Broker. Sheets-Adams Realtors has grown throughout the years and has a long and successful history of being one of McPherson's iconic businesses. It was founded in 1923 and became Sheets-Adams in 1961.

They currently have 17 agents that all strive to provide fair, prompt, and courteous service whether assisting in building or selling your property. Sheets-Adams Realtors look forward to promoting McPherson as one of the greatest communities to live in for many years to come.

Shoe Sensation

2201 E. Kansas Ave.

Contact: Barb Everett

Website: shoesensation.com

Facebook: Shoe Sensation

Shoe Sensation is pleased to announce plans to open a new store location in McPherson. Located at 2201 East Kansas Ave, this will be the company's 7th store in Kansas.

"We are looking forward to opening our new store in McPherson, offering name-brand family footwear to the community. Shoe Sensation has been in small-town America since 1986 and prides ourselves in hiring local employees and promoting from within." Says Barb Everett, MSD Shoe Sensation.

Shoe Sensation provides its customers with a mix of styles, from work shoes and boots to athletic shoes and dress shoes for the entire family. Plus, they offer a variety of brands such as Hey Dude, Adidas, New Balance, Crocs, Skechers, and many others! In addition, Shoe Sensation has a wide range of accessories including socks, backpacks, shoe care items, and athletic accessories. For more information about the brand's Shoe Sensation sells or store locations, please visit their website at shoesensation.com.

Shoe Sensation is currently hiring! Anyone interested in working for the rapidly expanding retail chain should visit shoesensation.com/careers to begin the application process and/or attend the upcoming job fair on September 21-22 at 10 am - 6 pm at Best Western Plus, 200 Champlin St.

Walk-In Chiropractor Clinic

116 N. Ash

Contact: Travis Seeber

Phone: 620-480-2921

Facebook: Walk-In Chiropractic Clinic

Travis Seeber, DC was born and raised in McPherson. After graduating high school he went to UTI in Phoenix for auto mechanics and then moved back to McPherson and worked as a mechanic around the area for several years. Travis and his wife got married in 2001. In 2004 he decided to go back to school and became a chiropractor. They lived in Kansas City for 8 years, and Travis earned his Doctor of Chiropractic degree in 2011. He ran an office in Plainville, KS for a couple of years before they decided to move back home to McPherson. Travis opened The Walk-In Chiropractic Clinic in 2016 at 116 N. Ash. He said, "I love being able to help people get out of pain and feel all-around better."

Influential People



Historical moments have no doubt changed many lives. Well known leaders and famous heroes have made a difference. But sometimes the most influential people in our lives are personal heroes, the people who care for us and have inspired us by the way they live their lives.

During the yearly Leadership McPherson classes facilitated by the McPherson Chamber, I have asked the class to share who the most influential person in their life is. Not once has anyone mentioned a historical giant or famous athlete. Repeatedly it is a mom or dad, a spouse or sibling, but often it is a grandparent. Their reasons encompass the importance of constant love and support, but often they share

stories of resilience, overcoming hardships, and the impact their influential person has made by being a positive light despite difficulties.

I always share comments about my circle of influential people because it is difficult to name just one. My mom is the most kind-hearted person I know. My sister, who is also my best friend, brings so much laughter to my life, and my grandmother Elsie, was

a true testament to strength. Elsie, who maybe topped 5', endured the great depression and continued to save jelly jars to reuse as drinking cups, saved plastic bread sacks to use again, rationed sticks of gum by cutting them in half, and taught us all how to live simply. She suffered when her twin sister was kidnapped at age 16, when she lost a child, and when her son was quarantined with polio. Elsie lived through WWI and WWII and made a living for her three young children after becoming a widow at a young age. I can't imagine how many times she had to pick herself up and go on with life, but she did. Elsie survived cancer in her 80's and with a grateful attitude, lived to be 101. With a smile on her face, she used to say, "I could complain, but it wouldn't do any good."

So when you feel overwhelmed with the pandemic marathon we are enduring, remember the influential people in your life. Are they your rock that you can lean on now? Maybe their legacy of courage and perseverance, is there to remind you that "you've got this!"

One of my most favorite quotes relates to these ideas. "The most beautiful people we have known are those who have known defeat, known suffering, known struggle, known loss, and have found their way out of the depths. These persons have an appreciation, a sensitivity, and an understanding of life that fills them with compassion, gentleness, and a deep loving concern. Beautiful people do not just happen." -Elisabeth Kubler-Ross

Together we can endure the hard times, and together we can learn to be a blessing, to be influential, and to be a positive light to others.

New Board of Directors Help Guide Chamber

The McPherson Chamber of Commerce staff, board, committees, and volunteers, work together to promote our community and members by providing business connections, educational opportunities, communications and marketing, encouraging new business start-ups, expansions, and community development. While we celebrate our 100th anniversary, we are also committed to many more years of serving our 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 2021-2022 Executive Committee is made up of President-Lauren Hughes (Wise & Reber L.C.), President-Elect Tiffani Floyd (Four Seasons Realtors/ Culver's Wines and Spirits), Past-President-Kendra Oakes (Peoples Bank and Trust), and Treasurer-Courtney Rierson (Swindoll, Janzen, Hawk & Loyd).

The Chamber welcomes four new members to its board as of September 1, 2021, representing a wide range of industries and backgrounds. Beginning three-year terms are Lenny Favara (Central Christian College of Kansas), Becky Goss (McPherson County Community Foundation), Tiffani Floyd (Four Seasons Realtors/ Culver's Wines and Spirits), and Courtney Rierson (Swindoll, Janzen, Hawk & Loyd).

Continuing their service on the board is Kendra Oakes (Peoples Bank and Trust), Ryan Hicks (Farmers Alliance Mutual Insurance), Jeff Reitz (JAR Performance Automotive), Eric Wicker (Viega). Craig Druecker (Midway Motors), Dr. Patrick Romm (Integrated Health and Wellness Center), Matt Grieb (CHS Refinery), and Lauren Hughes (Wise and Reber).

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 Thursday, October 7th. Board members who finished their 3-year terms on August 31st are Amy Beckman (McPherson College), Shannon Brake (McPherson Public Library), Alex Graber (Graber's Ace Hardware) and Justin Kaufman (Swindoll, Janzen, Hawk & Loyd).

Annual Meeting & Celebration

You are invited to join us for the McPherson Chamber Annual Meeting on **Thursday, October 7th, at 12:00 pm** at the McPherson Community Building. We will be celebrating the leadership of the Chamber by recognizing new 2021/2022 Chamber Board members, outgoing board members whose term ended August 31st and enjoying a delicious meal together.

The Chamber Annual Meeting is also an opportunity to honor the recipient of the President's Award, selected by the McPherson Chamber of Commerce Past Presidents.

Help us celebrate 100 years of serving the McPherson community and our commitment to many, many more. The cost to attend is \$25/person. Please RSVP by September 30th to chamber@mcphersonks.org or by calling the McPherson Chamber at (620) 241-3303.

Virtual Hiring Day Event

Looking for a New Job or Simpler Lifestyle? Join us for the Go McPherson Virtual Hiring Day on Friday, Oct. 8, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Hiring Day is your opportunity to network and interview for hundreds of jobs - in one, easy location - and learn more about what it's like to live in McPherson County, Kansas.

Bring your resume and your questions and get ready to connect with some of the most exciting and innovative companies and amenities in the area and find out why residents love living here!

Register for Hiring Day at www.gomcpherson.com

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Troy Glidden - Director

2020 - 2021 Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

Craig Druecker-Midway Motors Supercenter, Lenny Favara-Central Christian College of Kansas, Tiffani Floyd-Four Seasons Realtors/ Culvers Wines and Spirits, Becky Goss- McPherson County Community Foundation, Matt Grieb-CHS McPherson Refinery Inc., Ryan Hicks- Farmers Alliance Mutual Insurance, Lauren Hughes-Wise & Reber L.C., Kendra Oakes-Peoples Bank and Trust, Jeff Reitz- JAR Performance Automotive, Courtney Rierson-Swindoll, Janzen, Hawk and Loyd, Patricik Romm- Integrated Health & Wellness Center, Eric Wicker-Viega LLC.

Candidate Forum

The Civic Awareness Committee of the McPherson Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Mayoral Candidate Forum on Thursday, September 16th. The forum is an opportunity for the community to hear directly from the candidates about important topics.

The City of McPherson mayoral candidates, Tom Brown and Luke Aichele, have both confirmed their attendance. The public is invited to attend on September 16th at 7:00 pm at KMU, 2090 East Ave. A., McPherson.

The format will be question-and-answer as opposed to debate. Attendees will have the opportunity upon arrival and during the forum to submit questions for the candidates. All questions from the audience will be screened for duplication, legibility, and suitability for both candidates. The candidates will draw numbers to determine who will speak first, and both candidates will have 3 minutes for an opening statement. Candidates will then address the submitted questions, taking turns on answering first. Each candidate will also be given the opportunity for a 2-minute closing statement.

For those unable to attend, the McPherson Chamber of Commerce has partnered with McPherson Radio to broadcast the Mayoral Candidate Forum live on FM 96.7 KBBE. The forum will also be available on the McPherson Chamber of Commerce Facebook Page. Questions will not be monitored on Facebook during the forum, so please contact the candidates directly, to have your questions answered prior to election day.

Important dates to remember: Voter Registration Deadline- October 12. Advance Voting Begins- October 13. General Election Day- November 2, 2021.

100 Years Strong-Chamber History Stories

Celebrating & Growing Business with Chamber Ribbon Cuttings

Our history albums from the early 1990s through the late 2000s are loaded with newspaper clippings of Chamber Ribbon Cuttings. There were Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies held many years prior, but unfortunately, the archives only include the headlines and not actual photos.

Those we have a record of, share a story of significant accomplishments and a varying landscape as some businesses re-locate or expand. We have enjoyed seeing so many familiar faces, and the traditional red ribbon, in photos that span decades.

The 2008-2009 Annual Meeting touted "18 Ribbon Cuttings...and growing!" After that, we began archiving these special moments on the McPherson Chamber of Commerce Facebook page. Check out the Ribbon Cutting photos of the past 12 years among the Facebook albums.

Here are a few milestones we celebrated from 2007-2010 with Chamber Ribbon Cuttings:

- 10/29/2007 CertainTeed (addition of new extrusion line)
- 1/7/2009 McPherson Family YMCA (celebrating renovations)
- 2/13/2009 McPherson Public Library (grand opening)
- 9/2/2010 HCC (grand opening of McPherson Campus)
- 11/1/2010 Venable Jewelers (opening of new store)
- 12/15/2010 Clayworks at Disability Supports (opening of the new facility)

The McPherson Chamber of Commerce continues to host Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies to celebrate new businesses, new locations, or remodels, as well as celebrating business milestones. We are honored to be a part of so many special moments and look forward to many, many more! Mark your calendar for these upcoming ribbon cuttings.

- McPherson Classical Coaching Academy- Thursday, September 30th @ 9:30 a.m.
- Central Christian College's new entryway- Friday, October 1st @ 10:30 a.m.
- Shoe Sensation- Friday, November 5th @ 9:00 a.m.

Patriotic Efforts in Chamber History

A super cool flyer was found among the Chamber history relics at the McPherson Public Library. It was so unique of the many articles I sifted through, that I kept coming back to it. After digging and digging, I have yet to find out when it was printed, or the story behind them being "compliments of Chamber of Commerce." You can view the flyer on the Chamber website www.mcphersonchamber.org under the Chamber History Blog tab. How about that 157-telephone number!

A March 1999 newspaper article written by Kerri Snell titled "Chamber works to promote town, its businesses," talks about the transition of the 1897 Commercial Club to what is now the McPherson Chamber of Commerce. We will share more about the Commercial Club in a future history story. The article reads "The Chamber of Commerce in McPherson followed in the footsteps of the Commercial Club and was established in May 1921 with W.J. Krehbiel elected as the first president and Pete Aurell as the first secretary." It goes on to talk about the goals of the Chamber and its functions. "Another interesting function of the McPherson Chamber of Commerce was its coordination of war relief efforts during World War I. The Chamber of Commerce served as the central organization in making certain that the county achieved all quotas of assistance asked of it, according to reports in the local newspaper."

Digging through Chamber minutes from the WWII period, it mentions the Chamber being involved in post-war efforts regarding housing, occupations, and transportation.

Another reference to the war efforts was found in a letter to the Kansas State

Historical Society from the wife of Ralph Johnson. Johnson was the secretary/manager of the McPherson Chamber from 1928-1957 and would be referred to as the executive director today. The letter listed "War: Knitting, Bandages, Red-Cross, USO, Camp & Hospital 6/9/47." It describes the McPherson Chamber's Women's Club that, among other things, helped new residents get involved. Her letter states "During the years of World War II, the members voted to discontinue meeting so that members could give more of their time to the war effort."

While writing about military references, it seemed fitting to say Thank You to our troops! Not just on Veterans Day, but every day, may we appreciate our military for their courage and dedication, and their families for their support, resilience, and sacrifice.

Cigar Box Commemorates History

Twenty-Five years ago, when the McPherson Chamber celebrated its 75th anniversary, a 5/1996 newspaper article by Charla Gatz said, "The McPherson Chamber of Commerce has a long tradition of service in improving the city." Further on it states, "The Chamber actually can trace its lineage back to May 5, 1897 when its forerunner, the McPherson Commercial Club, was formed." . . .

... "The legacy of the Commercial Club was one of openness to surrounding communities, to successful ventures and opportunity, and a sense of stewardship for the care of the community. . . ." a legacy the McPherson Chamber of Commerce continues to uphold today.

... "The Commercial Club was so popular that a cigar manufacturer in the city named his product the Commercial Cigar. A photograph of several club members in fact was found inside the lid of a Commerce Cigar Box manufactured in McPherson by the Davis Cigar Co."

A picture was published in the New Century Edition of the McPherson Republican on January of 1901 and can be viewed on our Chamber History Blog at www.mcphersonchamber.org

The McPherson Housing Conference: There's No Place Like Home



ROB MACKAY
Executive Director
United Way of
McPherson County

A conference to explore the needs and development of safe, affordable housing in the county will be held at the McPherson Community Building on Friday, October 1st.

The McPherson Housing Conference: There's No Place Like Home is an outgrowth of community discussions held over the past year when housing needs exploded during the pandemic. United Way volunteer Lara Vanderhoof convened a roundtable of local leaders to discuss housing issues, which resulted in organizing the conference. "It was evident that we were in the midst of great need," said Vanderhoof, "and we thought we should gather people together to see what we can do to be more educated and informed on this issue."

The City of McPherson, the McPherson Housing Coalition and others have worked for many years to improve local housing conditions. The housing coalition is currently building emergency shelter houses known as the Oak Harbor Cottages to provide relief to families at risk of being homeless.

McPherson Housing Coalition Executive Director Chris Goodson said the housing conference will have two tracks. "The first track is all about development," said Goodson. "Say, I'm a developer, and I want to come in here and do a little bit of housing development. What does that look like and what's available in this community?" Goodson said since the Housing Coalition represents all of McPherson County, "We want the communities to come together to see what programs are available."

The development side of the conference will feature representatives of communities throughout McPherson County to discuss their housing initiatives. "We are going to have to figure out some ways to get some additional housing into our county," she said.

The other track, said Goodson, is aimed at nonprofits that want to learn more about housing issues and what's available for their clients.

The keynote speaker for the event will be Ryan Vincent, Executive Director of the Kansas Housing Resources Corporation, which has helped state residents with pandemic rental housing assistance. Mike Zamrzla, Deputy State Director for U.S. Senator Jerry Moran will open the conference.

The conference may be of interest to builders, developers, landlords, real estate agents, government officials, social service providers, educators, the faith community, and other citizens who care about the future of housing in the county.

Registration for the conference is available online at www.Eventbrite.com and is listed under McPherson events. Registration is \$15 per person for the conference, which runs from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. That includes a box lunch. A limited number of booths are available: \$30 for nonprofits including two lunches and \$55 for businesses, also with two lunches.

Special thanks to United Way's community partners on this project: The City of McPherson, McPherson Chamber of Commerce, McPherson County Community Foundation, McPherson Housing Coalition, Mount Hope Sanctuary, Safehope and STEPNC.

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