

OUTLOOK

GREAT BEND
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

JUNE 2023
VOLUME 102 NO. 6

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE
GREAT BEND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

business journal

1921



YEARS 2021

CHAMBER BLUE OF KANSAS

2024 ENROLLMENT BEGINNING SOON

Employers looking to explore their health benefit offerings will have another opportunity to review and enroll into the new Chamber Blue of Kansas. Chamber Blue is an innovative health insurance offering in partnership with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas (BCBSKS) and Chamber of Commerce Executives of Kansas (CCEKS). Comprised of 59 Chambers of Commerce across the state to provide a comprehensive Association Health Plan, 20 businesses chose to enroll within the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce membership base for the 2023 plan year.



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What You Need to Know for Plan Year 2024

- In order to review rates, employers must complete the Interest Survey which will be available from July 1 – August 18.
- Renewal information is to be sent out in October.
- Enrollment information collected from November 1 – 15
- Rates finalized by December 1
- ID cards mailed on December 22

2024 Renewal Changes

- Renewal will be age banded (5-year age bands) based on average age of the group. The rates will be composite rated, the same as in 2023.
- Limit to groups of 50 employees or less. Groups currently enrolled with over 50 employees will be grandfathered and can remain.
- Underwriting process – BCBSKS will review the risk of groups – if the risk of the group is within 10% of the risk of the association, they will be accepted, if the risk is higher, they will be denied.
- Groups with 10 or more employees will complete the census.
- Groups with 9 or fewer employees will complete health profiles.



SCAN HERE FOR MORE
INFORMATION

For complete plan details including eligibility requirements, benefits, and services, please visit bcbsks.com/chamberblueks.

Join the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce to take advantage of Chamber Blue, providing businesses with invaluable health insurance benefits and contributing to the growth and success of the local business community.



CONGRATS
CLASS OF

20
23

*Don't be afraid
to dream big.*



Business 2 Business Tours Recap

During our second round of the B2B Tours, participants toured 3 different businesses to learn what each specialize in and how they can support one another. The first tour started at Magna-Dry of KS (1724 Main), followed by Rana Luna Boutique (1910 Broadway), and Yeraldi's Boutique (1908 Broadway). Watch this recap video to see the fun and if you haven't shopped these businesses, we encourage you to stop in and see what they have to offer! You WILL be impressed! PLUS - You can spend your chamber gift certificates with each of these businesses!

Scan me



Hammeke Electric Attends WoodMaster Training in Minnesota

Tim Hammeke, President of Hammeke Electric and Josh Braden, newly hired Renewable Energy Division employee, attended a two-day WoodMaster dealer training, which was held in April at the company's manufacturing facility in Greenbush, MN. Hammeke Electric became a dealer of WoodMaster Outdoor Furnaces in 2022 and is currently the only available dealer in Kansas. The agenda of the two-day training event provided new dealers with the information needed to develop a successful WoodMaster dealership.

Topics covered included installation, maintenance, and operation of WoodMaster outdoor furnaces, an in-depth review of dealer programs, co-op advertising benefits, marketing strategies and other opportunities and tools of technology. New dealers were also provided information that benefits today's consumers interested in an outdoor furnace, including attractive financing options with Master Financing, the \$2000 Wood and Pellet Heater Investment Tax Credit and the ongoing value of the Online Support Center. The intensive two-day course provides WoodMaster dealers with the information and tools they need to excel with their dealership and to provide exceptional services and support to their customers.

WoodMaster furnaces are manufactured in Minnesota. Since 1989, WoodMaster has built industry-leading outdoor furnaces, continually finding innovative uses of natural energy and alternative fuel sources. The company's growing network of dealers and distributors helps consumers find the right WoodMaster furnace for their heating requirements. WoodMaster dealers carry a full line of parts and accessories and provide attentive, expert service at installation and throughout the life of each furnace.

Hammeke Electric would like to extend an invitation to anyone interested in learning more about WoodMaster outdoor furnaces to stop by Hammeke Electric at 167 N. US HWY 281, Great Bend or to call 620-793-6704 for more information.



Tim Hammeke poses with the K-State linemen and former NFL player, B.J. Finney, after installing a new WoodMaster Clean Fire Furnace at his Manhattan, KS home in March 2023.

Business Showcase!

GREAT BEND CHAMBER
BUSINESS SHOWCASE
Aug. 17th, 2023



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Providing the Great Bend community greater access to the resources of the only academic health system in Kansas. Together, we are committed to ensuring the continued well-being of this community, close to home.

kansashealthsystem.com/greatbend

Ribbon Cuttings!



First United Methodist Church

Congratulations to First United Methodist Church for celebrating its 150th anniversary! The church, which serves the Great Bend area, offers various services to the community, including traditional and Revive! worship services on Sunday mornings, as well as youth groups for ages Pre-K to High School on Wednesday nights. In addition, the church operates a preschool and serves as a downtown meeting location for various groups and organizations.

“We are thrilled to celebrate this momentous occasion with the Great Bend community,” said Rev. Tim Bever, Pastor of Great Bend First United Methodist Church. “For 150 years, our church has been a place of worship, fellowship, and service in the name of Jesus Christ. We are proud to continue this tradition and look forward to many more years of serving the Great Bend area.”

Great Bend First United Methodist Church currently employs 14 individuals and has been in business for 150 years. While the church primarily serves the Barton County area, it also aims to attract businesses and workforce to the region.

Rev. Tim Bever also shared a message he wants people to know about their

establishment. He emphasized that their focus is on following Jesus’ commandment to love the Lord with all their heart, being mind, and strength, and to love their neighbors as themselves, as stated in Mark 12:30-31. Bever also highlighted their commitment to fulfilling the Great Commission to “Go therefore and make disciples” as stated in Matthew 28:19. Great Bend First United Methodist Church is a vibrant and welcoming community that provides ample opportunities for worship, discipleship, and service in the name of Jesus Christ. Whether you are new to the faith or seeking a spiritual home, they aim to make you feel welcomed in their midst. They invite you to join them in growing in their relationship with God and serving the Great Bend mission field in whatever ways God calls them.

To learn more about Great Bend First United Methodist Church, visit their website at gbfumc.org or find them on Facebook (GBFirstUMC), Instagram (@GBFirstUMC), and Youtube (@GBFirstUMC). For further information or to schedule a visit, please contact them via email at secretary@gbfumc.org or by phone at 620-792-2148

Summer Hours at the Chamber!

Monday	9:00am - 3:00pm
Tuesday	9:00am - 3:00pm
Wednesday	9:00am - 3:00pm
Thursday	9:00am - 3:00pm
Friday	9:00am - 12:00pm
Saturday	CLOSED
Sunday	CLOSED

Welcome SUMMER

Outlook Business Journal

A monthly publication of the

GREAT BEND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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Great Bend, KS 67530
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www.greatbend.org

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The market is always changing. You can be prepared.

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2016 19th St 620-603-0340	1904 Broadway 620-793-5481	1904 Broadway 620-793-5481	2421 10th St. 620-792-5095

MKT-5894L-A-A1 AECSPAD

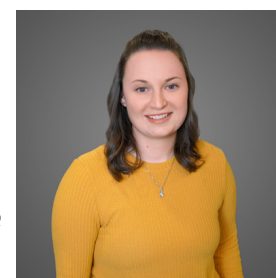
People on the Move!

Marketing Maven Welcomes Ashlie Thomas, Communications and Project Assistant

Marketing Maven Consulting, a brand management and design firm based in Great Bend, Kansas, is pleased to announce the addition of a new employee. Ashlie Thomas, a Kansas native, started with the company in May as a Communications and Project Assistant. "As our client base, our services, and our project list continues to grow, we realized the need for another staff person who can handle the administrative, research, and reporting functions that our clients depend on," says Rachel Mawhirter, Marketing Maven's owner and founder. "Ashlie is organized, efficient, and detail-oriented and we are confident she'll be a huge asset to our team and to the companies we work with."

Thomas grew up and graduated from Ellinwood, Kansas in 2011 before graduating from Barton Community College in 2013 with an Associate's in Applied Science in Business Management and Leadership. "In my short 30 years of life, I already have over a decade worth of experience in the field of business," Thomas says. "I am very excited to expand my knowledge and skillset with the Marketing Maven team and transition into more of a creative roll."

Thomas will be handling the firm's administrative tasks, metrics reporting, writing assignments, and other special projects. She will also assist with photography and photo editing, social media, and other marketing functions that serve the firm's growing list of clients. Outside of work, Thomas stays active volunteering for Central Kansas Christian Academy, coaching CKCA's basketball teams, serving at First Southern Baptist Church, and attending her children's sports and activities. She also enjoys going to the lake, spending time with family, and tackling lots of home improvement projects. Ashlie lives in Great Bend, Kansas with her husband, Ethan, and two children, Aiden and Oaklyn.



New leadership announced for GBMS, USD 428 District Office

The USD 428 Board of Education approved the appointment of two USD 428 administrators at their luncheon meeting held on Wednesday, April 26 at Riley Elementary.

JoAnn Blevins will be the next Director of Teaching and Learning for Great Bend Public Schools, USD 428. Blevins has worked in the district for 24 years, serving as a teacher, instructional coach, principal at Riley Elementary, and currently as principal at Eisenhower Elementary. Blevins will transition to her new role at the District Education Center on July 1, 2023.

Myron Ellegood has been appointed as the Principal of Great Bend Middle School. Ellegood has been the assistant principal and athletic director for GBMS since 2014. Ellegood will assume his new position at the start of the 2023-2024 school year. "We had an outstanding pool of applicants, both internal and external, for these positions," said Khrist Thexton, superintendent for USD 428. "These two are inherently familiar with the goals of our district and I'm excited to see the positive momentum and outcomes both Mrs. Blevins and Mr. Ellegood will continue to drive for our students, families, and community."



New administrators announced for USD 428

The USD 428 Board of Education approved the appointment of two USD 428 administrators at a special meeting held on Tuesday, May 16 at the District Education Center. Both appointments will be effective August 1, 2023.

Abigail Jonas will be the next Principal at Eisenhower Elementary School. Jonas began her career in USD 428 in 2015 as a Kindergarten teacher at Jefferson Elementary School, moving to the role of Technology Instructional Coach in 2022. Jonas earned a Bachelors in Elementary Education and a Masters in Building Administration from Fort Hayes State University.

Tanner Davis will serve Great Bend Middle School as the Assistant Principal. Davis is moving to Great Bend from Neodesha Jr/Sr. High School where he is the Assistant Principal and Athletic Director, since 2018.

Continued on Page 8

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**WHATEVER
IT TAKES.**

HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS IN JUNE

- 1-16...Barton County Fair Yoder Pie Sale, Order online at greatbend.org
- 1...Chamber Coffee: Housing Opportunities, 2406 31st., Doors open at 9am, Program at 9:30am
- 2-4...June Jaunt, Visit participating locations
- 5...Hamburger Night!, American Legion Post 180 (1011 Kansas Ave.), 5:30pm
- 6...Medicare Workshop, Front Door (1615 10th St.), 6:30pm
- 8...Chamber Coffee: Great Bend Zoological Society, 2123 Main St., Door open at 9am, Program at 9:30am
- 8...Bat Cats Vs. Hutch Monarchs, Al Burns Memorial Field, 7pm
- 9...K of C Council 862 Golf Tournament, Lake Barton Golf Club, 9am
- 9...Kansas Oil & Gas Museum - Rig Brew, 5944 10th St., 5pm
- 9...Bat Cats Vs. Hutch Monarchs, Al Burns Memorial Stadium, 7pm
- 9...VFW Post 3111 Karaoke Night!, 504 Washington, 9pm
- 12...Bat Cats Vs. Newton Sluggin' Rebels, Al Burns Memorial Stadium, 7pm
- 13...Shop Talk in 60, Chamber Board Room (1125 Williams), 12pm
- 14...Flag Day
- 14...Medicalodges Apprenticeship Program Launch, 1401 Cherry Lane, 2pm
- 14...Chamber After Hours: Wheatland Electric, Dry Lake Brewing, 4pm
- 14...Bat Cats Vs. Newton Sluggin' Rebels, Al Burns Memorial Stadium, 7pm
- 15...Chamber Coffee & Ribbon Cutting: Rotary Club, Tellers 1872 (1919 Lakin), Doors open at 9am, Program at 9:30am
- 15...Community Baby Shower, Jack Kilby Square, 4pm
- 15...Bat Cats Vs. Derby Twins, Al Burns Memorial Stadium, 7pm
- 16...Bat Cats Vs. Derby Twins, Al Burns Memorial Stadium, 7pm
- 16...Big Band Concert, Jack Kilby Square Bandshell, 8:15pm
- 17...Laundry Love, Discount Laundry (924 Jefferson St.), 10am
- 17...Clara Barton Foundation Annual Benefit Auction & Dinner, Knights of Columbus - 114 N. Main St. (Hoisington), 6pm
- 18...VFW Post 3111 Brunch, 504 Washington, 9:30am
- 19...Bat Cats Vs. Kingman Islanders, Al Burns Memorial Stadium, 7pm
- 22...Chamber Coffee: Nex-Tech Wireless, 2827 10th St., Doors Open at 9am, Program at 9:30am
- 23...Military and First Responders Night Out, Dropping 22 (916 Williams St.), 6pm
- 23...Bat Cats Vs. Kansas Cannons, Al Burns Memorial Stadium, 7pm
- 23...2nd Annual Community Garden Tour, 3007 10th St., 5pm
- 24...Bat Cats Vs. Kansas Cannons, Al Burns Memorial Stadium, 7pm
- 29...Chamber Coffee & Ribbon Cutting: Edward Jones - Jim Vopat, 2421 10th St., Doors open at 9am, Program at 9:30am
- 29...Bat Cats Vs. Colorado Springs Cage Rats, Al Burns Memorial Stadium, 7pm
- 30...American Legion Fried Chicken Friday, American Legion Argonne Post 180 (1011 Kansas), 5:30pm
- 30...Bat Cats Vs. Colorado Springs Cage Rats, Al Burns Memorial Stadium, 7pm

Recurring Events:

Great Bend City Council Meetings, 1st & 3rd Mondays, City Hall, 1209 Williams, 6:30 pm
Barton County Commission Meetings, Wednesdays, Barton County Courthouse, 1400 Main St, Rm 106, 9am.

GREAT BEND
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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to Our **NEWEST**
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Clara Barton Hospital Foundation “Full Steam Ahead” to Host 30th Annual Benefit Event



After a year full of exciting growth and development, the Clara Barton Hospital Foundation is eager to celebrate its 30th Annual Benefit over Father’s Day weekend (June 16 – 17)! This year’s event theme “Full Steam Ahead” is a tribute to the inspiring community support given to Clara Barton throughout the years and how it continues to be a driving force for innovating services and equipment within their organization. Proceeds will go towards providing a complete upgrade of the patient telemetry monitoring system – a “vital” tool for examining heart rate and rhythm, blood pressure, breathing rate, and oxygen levels utilized throughout the hospital.

To kick off Father’s Day Weekend the four-man scramble golf tournament will be held on Friday, June 16th at Lake Barton Golf Course, with tee times beginning at 7:10 AM. The cost to enter the tournament is \$95 per player or \$380 per team. Registration includes green fees, golf cart rental, lunch on the course, and a player gift. During this year’s tournament, you will have the chance to win awards for three tournament flights – top three places, thanks to sponsors Ehler Chevrolet, First Kansas Bank, and Barton County Transfer Service. The registration deadline is Tuesday, June 13th.

On Saturday, June 17th, a catered dinner sponsored by Nex-Tech and Nex-Tech Wireless will be available at the Knights of Columbus (114 N. Main Street in Hoisington) with doors opening at 6:00 PM and dinner being served at 6:30 PM. This year’s dinner includes smoked pork loin, cowboy beans, broccoli salad, sweet corn casserole, a dinner roll, and your choice of dessert. Dinner attendees will have the opportunity to win an amazing door prize sponsored by Abilene & Smoky Valley Railroad Association – 2 tickets to ride the only steam-powered railroad in Kansas. Winners will board the train at Abilene’s historic Rock Island Depot for a two-hour trip through the Smoky Hill River Valley!

Dinner tickets are \$30 each and must be purchased by Thursday, June 8th. All tickets must be secured in advance and can be purchased online or by calling the foundation at 620-292-0814 before June 8th.

The benefit auction will be a hybrid event – with both a live, in-person event and an online silent auction. After the benefit dinner on Saturday, June 17th, around 7:30 PM, specialty items, trips, and experiences will be available for live bidding. Additional silent auction items will be available for bidding online beginning Friday, June 16th, and closing Saturday, June 17th. To view these items and register to bid, visit www.one.bidpal.net/clarabarton or simply text clarabarton to 243725.

To download the benefit registration form for the golf tournament or to purchase dinner tickets, please visit www.clarahospital.com/benefit or call Michelle Moshier at 620-292-0814.

Medicalodges to Announce Apprenticeship Program

In partnership with Barton Community College, there will be a public event on June 14th to introduce Medicalodges Academy – Pathway to Learning & Earning. This apprenticeship program is designed to improve attainment levels for the limited workforce currently available and bolster Medicalodges current services. The public announcement will take place at the Medicalodges’ facility located at 1401 Cherry Lane, Great Bend, at 2:00p.m





Chamber Announces Social Media Master Series for Marketing Enthusiasts

Understanding social media best practices and algorithms have become top of mind for anyone doing business in 2023. That's why the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce is teaming up with Marketing Maven Consulting and Barton Community College for our Level-Up Social Media Master Series, a 3-part comprehensive workshop designed to equip marketing professionals and enthusiasts with cutting-edge strategies and insights for leveraging the power of Facebook and Instagram.

This series promises to provide attendees with invaluable knowledge and techniques to enhance their digital marketing efforts. The Social Media Master Series will be held at The Front Door, conveniently located at 1615 10th St., with sessions scheduled at 10:00 AM the following dates: July 11th, August 29th, and September 19th. Each session will offer an immersive and interactive learning experience, featuring engaging hands-on demonstrations, comprehensive guides and handouts, and



July 11th

Session 1: "Best Practices for Facebook & Instagram Marketing."

This foundational session aims to help participants establish consistency in branding and maximize their online visibility. Whether attendees are beginner marketers or individuals seeking a refresher on the fundamentals, this session will provide invaluable insights to elevate their social media presence.

August 29th & September 19th

Sessions 2 & 3: "Facebook & Instagram Master Series" (2 Parts)

These in-depth sessions will offer a deep dive into content creation, brand management, and advanced strategies for paid advertising on Facebook and Instagram. Aimed at experienced marketers aiming to enhance their marketing game or stay updated with the latest tools and features introduced in the last six months, these sessions are guaranteed to provide a competitive edge in the ever-evolving digital landscape.

- The new Facebook Page experience and functionality
- Content brainstorming, scheduling and organization, design
- When to use Facebook groups and events
- Leveraging video content
- Growing audiences / incentivizing audience engagement
- Paid strategies on social media
- practical guides for how to place ads
- understanding special ad categories
- building ad audiences
- budgeting strategies
- utilizing ad results for continuous improvement
- Using social media to recruit and hire
- Optimizing websites to maximize social media traffic and ad clicks

Don't miss out on this unparalleled opportunity to gain insider knowledge, network with like-minded professionals and take your marketing prowess to new heights. Secure your spot in the Level-Up Social Media Master Series today and embark on a transformative journey towards digital marketing excellence. Space is limited. Call the Chamber to reserve your spot today. Registration is \$150 for Members and \$200 for Non-Members and includes all handouts, guides, refreshments, and more!

Continued from Page 4

A graduate of Fort Hays State University with both a Bachelors in Education and Masters in Educational Administration, Davis has 13 years of experience in the classroom as an Agriculture Education Instructor, Physical Education Instructor, and in building leadership through his current role. Joining Davis in Great Bend is his wife, Jennie Vopat-Davis, who has been hired by Great Bend High School as a History Teacher for the 23-24 school year, and their two daughters. "The energy and enthusiasm of these two candidates was evident in the interview process," said Khris Thexton, superintendent for USD 428. "We're excited to see Mrs. Jonas and Mr. Davis bring their leadership and experience to Eisenhower Elementary and GBMS to support the success of our students, staff, and district as a whole."



Free ax throwing, mural tours highlight Great Bend's June Jaunt

THE CITY OF GREAT BEND

12TH 96 ANNUAL

JUNE JAUNT

JUNE 2-4, 2023

June 2-4, 2023
Join us for FUN in Jack Kilby Square!

[Explore Great Bend](#)

Year 12 for the Great Bend June Jaunt festival gets underway the first weekend in June. A combination of games, contests, food, tours, entertainment and music come to life at Jack Kilby Square in downtown Great Bend. Community Coordinator Christina Hayes said there are a few new highlights this year.

"Hatchet Axtion is working with us," said Hayes. "If you have not been in that business and thrown an ax for fun, you can do it for free during June Jaunt. We're also super excited about the Barton Arts Movement mural tours. We're going to use the trolley to go around and get a tour of the murals."

Free ax throwing at Hatchet Axtion will be from 5-7 p.m. on Friday, June 2 and from 4-7 p.m. on Saturday, June 3. The mural tours will be offered at 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 3.

Along with jumbo yard games, there will be inflatables for children, a stilt walker, magician, face painting, LED robot performance and the Taylor Fugitt Band will highlight the musical entertainment.

Mark Your Calendars For The Next Shop Talk In 60!

GREAT BEND
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Registered Participants are entered to win a door prize!

SHOP TALK IN 60

BYOL (bring your own lunch)
Free For Members

Who should attend?
Business Owners
Supervisors
Managers
Entrepreneurs
Etc.

June 13th @ 12pm
Great Bend Chamber Of Commerce (1125 Williams St.)

60 minutes of idea-sharing, problem-solving, and learning from your peers in the business community!

Chamber Hosts Successful Inaugural Spanish Without Barriers Event

The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce the resounding success of its first-ever Spanish Without Barriers Event, held on May 23rd in the Chamber's conference room. The event brought together a diverse group of individuals, all hailing from different backgrounds, with the common goal of learning conversational Spanish and fostering stronger connections with the local Hispanic community. The Spanish Without Barriers Event aimed to provide a platform for individuals to bridge cultural gaps and enhance their communication skills, thereby facilitating a more inclusive and harmonious community. Attendees were treated to an engaging and interactive session that facilitated the learning of essential conversational Spanish phrases.

Participants were immersed in a supportive and encouraging environment, where they had the opportunity to practice their newfound language skills with fellow attendees. The session focused on practical scenarios, such as ordering in restaurants, teaching key phrases such as "Me gustaría poner un orden" (I would like to place an order) and "Efectivo o tarjeta?" (Cash or card?). Through this hands-on approach, attendees gained confidence in their ability to communicate effectively in Spanish. Laughter and camaraderie filled the room as participants made mistakes, learned from one another, and provided assistance when needed. The positive atmosphere fostered a sense of unity and cooperation among the attendees, reinforcing the spirit of community engagement and cultural appreciation.

The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce would like to express its sincere gratitude to everyone who attended the Spanish Without Barriers Event. The overwhelming turnout and enthusiastic participation demonstrated the community's eagerness to embrace new experiences and engage in meaningful dialogue. By stepping out of their comfort zones, attendees took an important step towards fostering a more inclusive and culturally diverse Great Bend.

The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce remains committed to organizing events and initiatives that promote cultural understanding, foster collaboration, and support the local community. We look forward to hosting future Spanish Without Barriers events and continuing our efforts to bridge gaps, celebrate diversity, and strengthen community ties.



The Sunflower Center is Getting a Mural!

We're excited to be working with Barton Arts Movement to beautify our building at 1125 Williams Street in downtown Great Bend with the help of Artist Brady Scott from Hutchinson, Kansas. The building that houses the Chamber and other entities is known as the Sunflower Center, so appropriately, this gorgeous Kansas themed mural will feature a bright and colorful sunflower theme.

A significant gift in memory of Reta Brack, a long-time Chamber supporter and volunteer, has gotten fundraising off to a great start. BAM is now asking the community to help complete the final leg of this fundraising project. Total investment will be between \$7,500 and \$10,000.

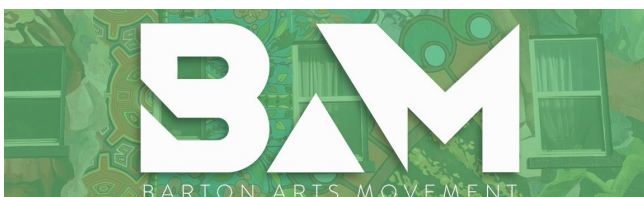
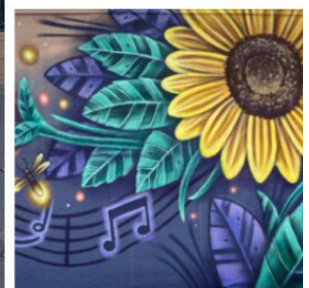
Anyone interested in making a tax-deductible gift to BAM to help with this project, or any of the other murals being installed this summer, can be made through the Golden Belt Community Foundation:

Drop off or mail a check to Golden Belt Community Foundation (list BAM in the memo line) to 1307 Williams Street, Great Bend, KS 67530. Donate online through the Golden Belt Community Foundation. Be sure to add a note during checkout indicating that you want your gift to go to BAM.

If all goes well and weather cooperates, BAM volunteer anticipate this mural to begin in July or August 2023. Be sure to follow Barton Arts Movement on Facebook to keep up with this project and many others happening this year!



BRADY SCOTT
ARTIST & DESIGNER
HUTCHINSON, KS





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FEATURED AMBASSADOR

FLOR SANCHEZ

HEART OF KANSAS HEALTH CARE, INC. -COPE



What brought you to Great Bend?

My dad was brought to Great Bend for employment when we moved to the US from Mexico. We came to Great Bend to raise our family. Great Bend is a small town with a unique charm here is where my kids are starting to set the path to their futures.

Where do you work and what do you do there?

I am Community Health Worker (CHW) with Heart of Kansas. I help people in the community connect with resources, accompany them to doctor appointments, interpret for spanish speaking individuals, partner with organizations in the community to build strong partnerships, home visits, meeting one on one with our clinic patients to help them with anything they might need among many other things.

What's one thing about you that would surprise people?

I was a personal interpreter of the mayor of my city in Mexico while working in the international affairs department. I have double citizenship due to my parents.

What energizes you and brings you excitement?

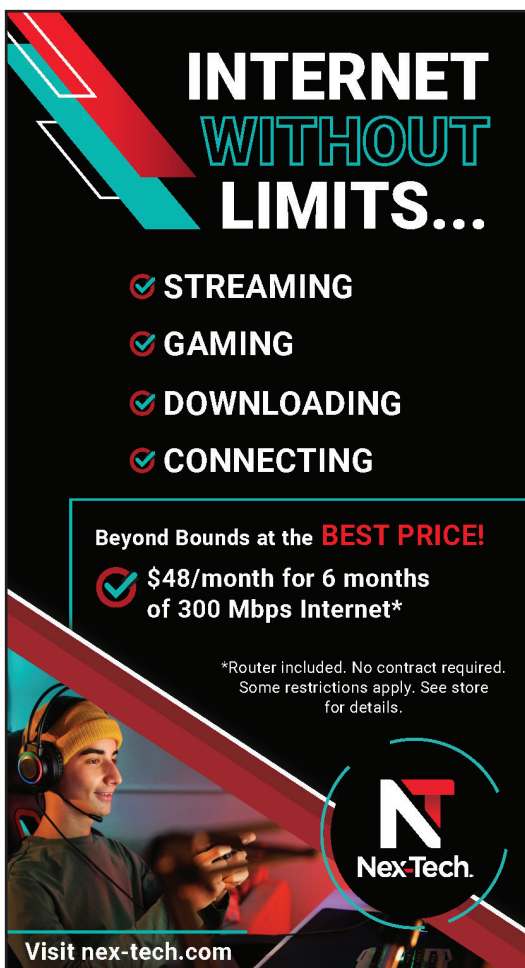
My kids bring me joy and make me want to be a better mom but if you see me jamming out while driving is to keep me excited through my day so I can help others so I can share a smile.

At what job, would you be terrible?

I would be a terrible teacher for me being a teacher is the person that set the foundation to an individual life in all the ways possible without them every single aspect of life wouldn't be possible and it requires a lot of patience and creativity.

How long have you been a Chamber Ambassador and what do you like most about it?

5 months - Building relationships and networking, especially while making an impact on the gap between the Hispanic and American community. I also enjoy learning about all the business and individuals we have in our community.



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T & L Fireworks

This July is Now 53 Years for Locally Owned T & L Fireworks

T & L Fireworks is gearing up for Tuesday, June 27th, the opening day of their hometown business. Tom and Linda Barnes and their daughters, Christy Kuhn (Eric) and Kathy Kaiser (Steve) and granddaughters, Ashley Klein (Tyler), Katelyn Kaiser, Cara Moore (Brady), and their families have been working hard as the season approaches. 2023 will be served by the 1st and 2nd generations at the main location at 159 North 281 HWY, just one-half-mile North of 24th and Main St, the huge white & blue 7,500 sq foot superstore, while the 3rd generation is proud to serve the community again in their air-conditioned location at 5215 West 10th St, just west of the old Playa Azul. We will be open June 27th through July 4th.

We are excited to keep our long-standing tradition of inviting everyone to stop by any of our locations to register to win our \$1,000 fireworks shopping spree. The shopping spree continues to be one of our favorite traditions. The winner will have the opportunity to fill their shopping carts with fireworks of their choice. More chances to win with T & L... look forward to our upcoming Facebook Fridays on the radio along with fun, new opportunities to win T & L Fireworks gift certificates from entries on our Facebook page and various contests onsite at our locations.

The Barnes Family is committed to the same values and vision that was established back in 1970. We pride ourselves on quality customer service and helping customers find products they enjoy. Customers may view displays of many of our products while they shop on multiple TV's onsite. Our locations are air conditioned, accept debit cards, major credit cards and have the convenience of shopping carts. Gift certificates are available and make impressive gifts for birthdays and graduations. Message us on Facebook to purchase.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to the many dedicated patrons we enjoy seeing each year.



159 N HWY 281



5215 West 10th



Spicing Up Success: Great Bend Chamber of Commerce's First Cinco de Mayo Booth Brings Massive Triumph & Community Connections

As part of their commitment to fostering inclusivity and understanding, the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce was present during the Cinco de Mayo festival at Jack Kilby Square, held on May 6th. Chamber staff and members of the Chamber Ambassador Club provided an engaging and fun experience for attendees.

Ambassadors handed out cotton candy to over 200 people, young and old, throughout the day while engaging in conversations about the Chamber's essential contributions to the community. These conversations provided feedback and valuable insights into better serving the multicultural community. Participants were asked thought-provoking questions such as, "Do you feel represented?" and "Would you like to see more events similar to Cinco de Mayo?" These responses will guide the Chamber in finding new avenues to enhance its services and forge stronger connections among the diverse communities they represent.

The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce extends its heartfelt appreciation to everyone who visited our booth, engaging in meaningful conversations and showing support for the Chamber's initiatives. The Chamber remains committed to cultivating a thriving and inclusive community and events like the Cinco de Mayo festival play a crucial role in fostering unity and understanding.





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CHAMBER COFFEE SCHEDULE

Every Thursday | Doors Open at 9am | Program at 9:30am

Tune in on Facebook or YouTube for Virtual Coffees

June 1st, 2023 HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES 2406 31st.

Housing Opportunities Inc. (HOI) has been dedicated to improving the housing conditions in Central Kansas since 1996. HOI has developed 61 homeownership homes, 16 rental properties with 188 units dedicated to seniors, and 20 family rent-to-own homes.

June 8th, 2023 GREAT BEND ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY 2123 Main St.

The Great Bend Zoo features species from around the world and also maintains a Raptor Rehabilitation Program. Our free facility is open 362 days of the year.

June 15th, 2023 GREAT BEND ROTARY CLUB Tellers 1872 (1919 Lakin Ave.)

The Rotary Club of Great Bend is celebrating 100 years in 2023. For the last hundred years the local Rotary Club has been addressing the issues of the community. Recent service projects include Rotary Lake and downtown historical markers found on places like the Great Bend Tribune. Globally, unites people from all continents and cultures who take action to deliver real, long-term solutions to our world's most persistent issues.

June 22nd, 2023 NEX-TECH WIRELESS 2827 10th St.

We are committed to serving our communities. Annually we donate over \$13,000 and provide \$180,000 in sponsorships for your favorite local events like the Smoky Hill River Festival, Wild West Festival, Kansas State Fair, Kansas Shrine Bowl and many more. We are avid supporters of local colleges and are the official wireless provider for Fort Hays State University and Emporia State University athletics!

June 29th, 2023 EDWARD JONES - JIM VOPAT 2421 10th St.

We are greater than one, a force of many. We are approximately 52,000 associates seeking to make a real impact in three areas: Partnering for Lasting Financial Strength, Promoting Healthier Futures and Advancing Inclusive Growth. Every day, we put our purpose in action. It's what our clients expect from us, and what our communities need from us. But most importantly, it's what we demand from ourselves.

July 6th, 2023 BARTON COUNTY FAIR Expo II (455 W. Barton County Rd.)

Join us bright and early for a Business Appreciation Breakfast with pancakes and all the fixings, starting at 7:30AM, in Expo II! Breakfast begins at 7:30am, Program at 8:30 am. Outstanding door prizes provided by the 4-H Clubs will be drawn throughout the morning. The 2023 Barton County Fair runs from July 5th -10th! Learn more at bartoncountyfair.com.

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