

# OUTLOOK

**GREAT BEND**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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# 2026

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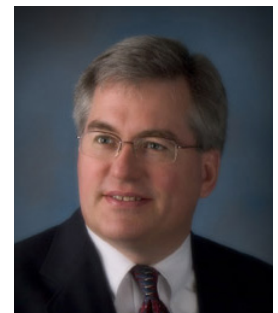
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# CHAMBER NEWS

*A word from your president*



## Advancing Together in 2026

As we begin a new year, I want to start by expressing my heartfelt thanks. Your continued investment in the Chamber and support of the Elevate GBK initiative is an investment in our entire business community. Because of you, we are closing another strong year and stepping confidently into the future, guided by our five-year Strategic Plan. Your support makes meaningful progress possible for local businesses, innovation, and opportunity across Great Bend.

It's important to note that the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce receives zero public or tax dollars. Everything we do from advocacy and leadership development to events, programming, and business support is made possible entirely through member investments, sponsorships, and Elevate GBK campaign pledges. Your commitment allows us to remain member-driven, responsive, and focused on delivering real results that strengthen our community.

### Elevate GBK Capital Campaign Progress

Thanks to your generosity, the Elevate GBK: Beyond Today Capital Campaign has raised \$1,011,250—exceeding our \$1 million goal. These funds are already at work, supporting initiatives in membership engagement, entrepreneurship, leadership development, and advocacy. Every membership dollar and campaign pledge directly strengthens local businesses and drives long-term opportunity across Great Bend.

### Strategic Plan Highlights

This past year brought significant momentum:

**Advocacy:** We launched Run Ready, a half-day leadership lab designed to equip civic leaders with the tools and vision to serve with integrity.

**Realignment:** Chamber resources are being streamlined to maximize impact, ensuring more dollars are reinvested into member support and signature programming.

**Member Experience:** We are preparing for

a full restructure of our investment schedule, shaped by member feedback and focused on clarity, choice, and value.

### Looking Ahead: A New Member Investment Schedule

For nearly 20 years, our investment schedule has remained unchanged, a testament to the strong partnerships within our business community. In 2026, in response to your feedback, we will roll out a brand-new, member-focused investment schedule. This approach is not about raising revenue. It is about offering more options, meaningful benefits, and a clearer return on your support. Members will have opportunities to provide input during a Design and Test phase and to become early adopters of the new levels.

### Enhanced Digital Experience

Looking ahead, the Chamber website will undergo a major redesign in late 2026. The new Members-Only Portal will include a Virtual Resource Library with templates, guides, and tools, plus convenient online scheduling for Chamber Coffees, ribbon cuttings, and events making it easier than ever to engage with the Chamber.

### Building the Future Together

Your involvement ensures the Chamber remains a strong advocate, connector, and partner for Great Bend's business community. We will continue sharing updates with Elevate GBK investors and members, highlighting progress, listening closely, and adjusting with purpose.

Thank you for being an essential part of this journey. Your support, feedback, and engagement truly make all the difference.

With gratitude,

Megan Barfield

President

Great Bend Chamber of Commerce



# Featured Ambassador: Kimberly Becker

Ambassador Club members assist the Chamber with networking events, ribbon cuttings, groundbreakings, and membership recruitment and retention. This group of volunteers allows the Chamber to cultivate business relationships and network with the area's most successful people. If you would like to become an Ambassador and represent your company, contact a member of the Chamber staff.

## Q What Brings You Here?

**A** "I am a Great Bend native who spent eight years away before returning to be closer to family. My husband, Dwayne and I, have parents, children, and grandchildren here. We have been married for 31 years, have 4 beautiful daughters, and 12 grandchildren. What keeps me here is a deep desire to contribute to the positive change so many in our community long for. The more I get involved, the more I hear the hopes and passions of those around me—and it fuels my commitment to creating spaces where every voice can be heard."

## Q Your Day to Day Jobs

**A** "I am the founder and owner of Move Your Mountain Coaching & Consulting, where I work as an Executive and Leadership Coach and a Speaker. I specialize in helping individuals, teams, and organizations unlock their potential, navigate challenges, and create meaningful, lasting impact. Outside of running my business, I love staying plugged into the heart of our community. I serve on the Great Bend Chamber Board, help empower women through Prairie Godmothers, and lend my voice to the Patient & Family Advisory Committee for the University of Kansas Health System – Great Bend Campus. I was recently honored to be elected as a Barton Community College Trustee, and my family and I launched The Grin Bin & The Bright Spot, a local project dedicated to bringing joy, meaningful activities, and emotional support items to patients in the hospital. Giving back fuels me just as much as entrepreneurship—and together, these roles keep me connected, inspired, and having a lot of fun along the way."

## Q Surprise us!

**A** "Outside of loving to hike, ride motorcycles, and constantly compete with myself, I also have a bit of a spontaneous streak—so much so that after reading a Facebook post, I ended up donating my kidney to a complete stranger. In fact, we didn't even have our first conversation until the night

before the "great exchange." It's one of my favorite reminders that bold decisions, big hearts, and a little leap of faith can change lives."

## Q Your Inspiration

**A** "What fills me up is witnessing that light-bulb moment when someone realizes they are worthy of stepping into the calling on their life. I love being a cheerleader for others—celebrating their growth, supporting them through their biggest obstacles, and having the honor of standing on the sidelines as they rise into their greatest successes."



## Q Wild Card - What would you be terrible at?

**A** "I would be terrible at a desk job that requires tracking details and managing data—I'd lose my mind before lunch. I'm a big-picture problem solver through and through, and spending my days in the weeds feels like someone slowly turning down my oxygen. Give me vision, strategy, and possibility over spreadsheets any day!"

## Q Your Role as an Ambassador

**A** "I have been an Ambassador for 3 years and will be the President of the Ambassador group next year as I start my second term. I absolutely love being a Chamber Ambassador! We get the honor of acting as the Chamber's extra set of eyes and ears out in the wild—sharing the good news, answering questions, and gently correcting any "creative" versions of the truth we hear floating around town. And the gravy on top? The incredible relationships we get to build with fellow ambassadors—amazing people I never would have crossed paths with otherwise. Being a Chamber Ambassador has helped me grow my business, expand my influence, and make connections that have become both meaningful and fun."

Kimberly can be reached at 620-282-8970 or moveyourmountain19@gmail.com.

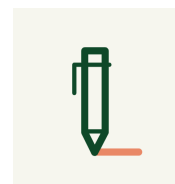
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thevelvetbookmarkgbk@gmail.com  
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## Membership questions?

Contact Julie Mazouch  
for all your membership needs!  
jmazouch@greatbend.org  
620-792-2401

# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!



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Wichita, KS  
(940) 613-5735  
farharoofing.com  
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3511 10th St Ste 101  
(620) 253-4027  
**Cleaning Service**



GBKS Investment Management  
Patrick McGinn  
(620) 282-1513  
gbksim.com  
**Financial Planning**



Waddle Wagon  
(620) 885-4614  
chadandtracilang@gmail.com  
**Food Service**

## Membership questions?

Contact Julie Mazouch  
for all your membership needs!  
jmazouch@greatbend.org  
620-792-2401

# BCC News: Growth, Innovation, and Recognition Across Campus

Barton Community College marked a season of dynamic growth, strategic innovation, and statewide and national recognition as the 2025 academic year draws to a close.

## Enrollment Growth and Academic Expansion

Preliminary figures released by the Kansas Board of Regents show Barton's fall enrollment climbing 5%, one of the largest increases among Kansas community colleges, with a total headcount of 5,348 students. This continues Barton's trajectory as a leader in the state; the College remains the second-largest by enrollment for the ninth consecutive year and has grown nearly 25% over the past five years. Programs driving growth include networking, natural gas, plumbing, construction technology, music, nursing, and emergency medical services.

Barton is also expanding its academic offerings in response to workforce needs. In partnership with the Golden Key Group, the College launched the nation's first Associate of Arts degree in Federal Human Resources. The program provides service members, veterans, and military spouses with a pathway to rewarding civilian careers in federal service, reinforcing Barton's commitment to supporting military communities and addressing workforce gaps.

## Enhancing Teaching and Learning Support

Barton hosted the Kansas Community College Corequisite Symposium, welcoming nearly 100 faculty, administrators, and support staff from across the state. The event focused on strengthening corequisite instruction in English and math—an educational approach that supports students in completing gateway college courses with additional academic support. The symposium fostered collaborative dialogue and shared strategies to improve student outcomes and equity across participating institutions.

## New Athletic Opportunity: Women's Wrestling

In athletics, the Barton Board of Trustees approved a women's wrestling program beginning in the 2026-27 season, expanding the College's roster to 23 sports. This decision reflects the growing popularity of women's wrestling in Kansas and across



collegiate athletics. The College expects the new sport to boost full-time enrollment and enhance opportunities for female student-athletes, aligning with Barton's mission to broaden access and engagement in campus life.

## Celebrating Excellence with New Awards and National Recognition

Barton launched the inaugural "Bart Awards"—a peer-to-peer recognition program celebrating outstanding contributions by faculty and staff. Inspired by the College's president, the program encourages recipients to pass the award to a colleague each month, fostering a culture of appreciation and shared accomplishment. The first honors went to Julia Clemons for her positivity and impact and to Myrna Perkins and the Financial Aid Team for their dedication to student support.

At the national level, Barton received two significant distinctions. The Aspen Institute named Barton as one of the Top 200 U.S. community colleges eligible for the 2027 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, acknowledging the College's strong student outcomes and institutional performance. This recognition places Barton among an elite group of institutions invited to participate in a rigorous competition culminating in spring 2027.

In addition, Barton was selected as a finalist for the prestigious Bellwether Award, which honors outstanding and innovative community college programs nationwide. Barton's nursing program partnership with Pratt Community College earned the finalist distinction in the Workforce Development category—highlighting its role in addressing rural healthcare staffing needs through collaborative education and training.



# GBPD Connects Community with Holiday Outreach Events

It's been a busy week of holiday service for the Great Bend Police Department (GBPD), which hosted its annual "Shop with a Cop" event on Wednesday.

Sixty-seven children in the community came out to Walmart yesterday afternoon to receive an early holiday present, 17 more than in previous years, thanks to the generosity of supporters.

"The Great Bend Police Department, together with the Great Bend Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #23, is honored to support the Shop with a Cop program year after year," said Great Bend Police Chief Steve Haulmark. "This event provides a meaningful opportunity for officers to connect with local children and bring holiday joy to families who may be facing challenges. We extend our sincere appreciation to the community partners and donors whose continued support ensures this program remains a bright spot in our community."

In partnership with the Great Bend Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #23, GBPD hosted two shopping sessions at Walmart starting at 4 p.m. and 4:45 p.m. Each child was handed a \$75 Walmart gift card and was paired with a police officer to select toys of their choice. In addition, the GBPD provided families with food boxes, including a turkey, for enough to fix a meal up to 10 people.

Last Saturday, workers from Project Clean Sweep played an essential role by preparing the food boxes that were distributed to the families. Project Clean Sweep is a collaborative

initiative between the police department and the municipal court that allows individuals to complete community service as an alternative to paying fines.

Forty-five grocery boxes were handed out at "Shop with a Cop". Leftover boxes will be donated, with one each going to the local boys' and girls' homes, as well as two to the Family Crisis Center. Four remaining \$75 gift cards will be given to children in shelters.

On Tuesday, Dec. 9, Community Engagement Officer Gary Davis invited the public to take a Christmas-themed photo at the police station, drawing in 24 children. Stg. Davis handed out candy and posed for pictures in front of a GBPD Christmas Tree, adorned with blue tinsel, black and white ornaments with a GBPD hat as the tree-topper.

For those interested in a chance to take their own photo with Stg. Davis, please contact the police department at 620-793-4120.



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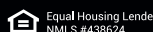
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MEMBER FDIC



# Many Hats, One Role: GBED Seeks Manager of Community & Economic Impact

Are you someone who can assist running a meeting at 9am, help plan an event by noon, pitch a downtown business at 2pm, brainstorm new ideas at 4pm, and still have the energy to attend an event at 6pm? If so... let's talk.

Great Bend Economic Development is looking for a Manager of Community & Economic Impact. We are looking for a dynamic, adaptable, enthusiastic human who loves meaningful work and wearing multiple hats. No two days are the same, and you'll never be bored.

This job requires you to be able to Juggle! Can you juggle multiple projects at once?

This job requires you to be analytical! Can you understand the story the data is telling you? This job requires you to be communicative! Can you speak at events and write grant proposals? This job requires you to be passionate! Can you make others' challenges your own?

If you can handle the above keep reading.

### What You'll Do

You'll be a key player across multiple impact-driven organizations:

1. Economic Development (your bread & butter)
  - Do you want to support the local economy through business retention, expansion, and recruitment?
  - Can you analyze data, spot opportunities, and help move community-changing projects forward?
  - Can you write clear, compelling proposals, reports, and presentations?
  - Are you comfortable meeting with business owners, partners, and stakeholders at all levels of an organization?
  - Can you heard cats, keep multiple projects moving forward?

2. Great Bend Alive (downtown nonprofit)
  - Do you wish you lived in the best downtown in America? Come build that dream.
  - Do you enjoy attending community events? Come help plan and put on those events.
  - Do you wish you lived in a community full of opportunities for everyone? Come build support systems for downtown business operators and residents.

### 3. Advancing Barton County Childcare

(childcare nonprofit)

- Do you want to advance the community by helping provide affordable & accessible childcare?
- Can you read Balance Sheets, understand Profit & loss reports, and run basic forecasts analysis?
- Help coordinate programs, partners, meetings, and community outreach?
- Research data, insights, and solutions, and then draft a proposal using that information to help expand childcare access?

### Who You Are

We're looking for someone who's a little bit... everything:

- Are you a project manager at heart? Do timelines, checklists, and color-coded calendars make your heart happy?
- Outgoing & people-focused? Can you help work a room without wanting to hide?
- Creative but organized? Ideas and execution matter!
- Comfortable speaking to groups? From board meetings to community events.
- A multitasking wizard? Can you juggle multiple projects and keep track of all the moving parts?
- Detail-oriented? When you QC your own work you notice when something's off?
- Tech & data comfortable? Spreadsheets, inboxes, and dashboards don't scare you.
- Community-minded? You find purpose in making Great Bend & Barton County better.
- A problem solver? You love figuring out how to get things done.
- A leader? Can you work with businesses, city leaders, and community partners?

Are you the person that no matter what it is, you just get it done?

### Qualifications

Did you answer yes to most of the above questions, if so, you are probably qualified. There is not one right answer to the combination of education vs. experience, just show you are capable. You are not required to know everything on day one. You are required to be willing to learn anything.

### Ready to Apply?

Send your resume and a quick note about why you'd be a great fit to [Director@gbedinc.com](mailto:Director@gbedinc.com).

# RIBBON CUTTINGS



The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce hosted a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for **Yeraldi's Boutique**, now located at 2515 10th Street in Great Bend (the former Sears building). Owned by Nereyda Sanchez, Yeraldi's Boutique has been serving the community for over 15 years, offering stylish apparel and footwear for the entire family.

What began as a small business out of Sanchez's home has grown steadily over the years. After moving to Forest Avenue, then expanding to Broadway, Yeraldi's Boutique has now reached a new milestone with its spacious location on 10th Street. This expansion reflects Sanchez's dedication to serving the community with quality fashion and exceptional customer service.

Yeraldi's Boutique offers a wide variety of clothing and boots for men, women, and children, making it a one-stop destination for family fashion. The boutique is proud to have bilingual staff, ensuring that all customers feel welcome and supported. Sanchez emphasized that her business is family-driven, and she hopes more people will discover the wide selection available at the store.

In addition to the Great Bend location, Sanchez has recently expanded her reach by opening a second boutique inside the Village Square Mall in Dodge City, furthering her mission to bring fashion to families across Kansas.

Yeraldi's Boutique is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sunday from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m., offering extended hours for holiday shopping and family convenience.

For more information, find Yeraldi's Boutique on Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok.



**Kelly's Garden Sense** celebrated its 10-year anniversary with a Great Bend Chamber of Commerce Ribbon Cutting on Thursday, December 4, 2025. The event recognized a decade of growth and creativity, as the business has become a destination for unique plants, seasonal pottery, and full-scale landscaping services that bring extraordinary ideas to life.

The celebration continues with festive events at the greenhouse, including the Holiday Open House on Saturday, December 6 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., followed by Mistletoe & Martinis that

evening at 7:00 p.m. Guests are invited to enjoy the holiday atmosphere, connect with Kelly's team, and experience the welcoming spirit that has defined the business for ten years.

Located just east of Great Bend at 134 NE 10 Ave, Kelly's Garden Sense remains dedicated to creating memorable spaces and experiences. For more information, visit [www.kellysgardensense.com](http://www.kellysgardensense.com).



**Nex-Tech** announces the retirement of Mike Pollock, Chief Operating Officer, after 24 years of service. Beginning as Information Technology Manager in 2001, Pollock advanced through multiple leadership roles, most recently overseeing the company's largest division encompassing engineering, operations, and technology services.

Throughout his career, Pollock led multi-million-dollar broadband initiatives expanding high-speed internet across rural Kansas, including projects spanning over 6,000 square miles with 1,645 miles of fiber. Notable achievements include helping launch Nex-Tech Wireless in 2005 and completing fiber deployment across the entire cooperative footprint in 2023.

Beyond technical expertise, Pollock championed workforce development by partnering with Fort Hays Tech to revive the telecommunications program, resulting in nine students joining Nex-Tech. He has served on numerous local, state, and national boards, receiving NTCA's 2024 Key Employee Award.



**Barton Community College** hosted its Fall 2025 President's Forum on Oct. 23, offering campus updates, a question-and-answer session with college leadership, and recognition of employees for their years of service.

The following individuals were recognized during the ceremony:

Carson DuBose, Head Coach (Softball), 5 years

James Jackson, Camp Ranger, 5 years

Rebecca Kratzer, Academic Coordinator (BCUB), 5 years

Samuel Kline-Martin, Math & Science Specialist, 5 years

Kendall Meyer, Coordinator & Academic Advisor, 5 years

Cathy Smith, Instructor & Coordinator (Medical Support Programs), 5 years

Norma Urias Hernandez, Custodian, 5 years

Michael (Mike) Davis, Campus Security Officer, 10 years

Megan Phillips, Advisement Coordinator, 10 years

Shanda DeYoung, Financial Aid Compliance Officer, 15 years

Nolan Esfeld, Director of Student Academic Development, 15

years; Chris Stott, Academic Advisor, 15 years; Lori Crowther, Registrar, 35 years.

Barton President Dr. Marcus Garstecki said he was excited to show his thanks on behalf of the college to the service award recipients. "I want to extend my gratitude to the individuals who received service awards," he said. "Barton continues to provide an outstanding education for our students. This only happens because of our amazing employees who strive to help students receive the best experience we can offer. I appreciate all of the employees who were recognized for their efforts."

For more information about working at Barton, visit [jobs.bartonccc.edu](http://jobs.bartonccc.edu).

Barton Community College has announced the hiring of Julie Bugner Smith as the Alumni and Events Coordinator, a newly created position within the **Barton Community College Foundation**.

Smith is a Barton alum, and one of her first projects will be to lead the launch of Barton's first formal alumni program and help strengthen connections between Barton graduates, students, and the College. Smith will also help coordinate signature Foundation fundraising events and build relationships with campus partners and community supporters.

Barton's Executive Director of Institutional Advancement Lindsey Bogner said Smith's experience and passion make her a good fit for the position. "Creating our first alumni program is an exciting step forward, and Julie's knowledge, experience, and passion make her an ideal fit to guide this work," she said. "We are thrilled to have her help us write the opening chapter of this new initiative."

As a proud Barton graduate, Smith said she looks forward to creating opportunities for alumni to stay connected and engaged. "Being a Barton alum myself, I am thrilled to join the team as the Alumni and Events Coordinator," she said. "I'm passionate about building connections and fostering a sense of community, and I'm excited to work with our amazing alumni and friends to create meaningful events and experiences. I'm looking forward to collaborating with our students, faculty, and staff to strengthen our alumni network and support the College's mission."

Smith brings extensive experience in event planning, community engagement, and nonprofit leadership. She has held roles with the Larned Area Chamber of Commerce, Pawnee Valley Community Hospital Foundation, and United Way of Central Kansas, where she successfully led major fundraising initiatives, developed community impact programs, and built partnerships across the region.

Former students interested in learning more can contact Bugner Smith at [bugnersmithj@bartonccc.edu](mailto:bugnersmithj@bartonccc.edu) or 620-792-9324.







**Central Kansas Christian Academy** is thrilled to welcome Cindy Wilborn to their team as the new Physical Education Teacher. Cindy brings enthusiasm, dedication, and a passion for inspiring students to stay active and healthy. Cindy emphasizes our collective responsibility to raise children to know, love, and serve Christ. Cindy holds a bachelor's degree in Physical Education from Kansas Wesleyan University in Salina, KS, and has been teaching since 2001. She previously served as the PE teacher at CKCA in 2010, and they are excited to have her back. They also want to extend gratitude to Tyler Wassenberg for serving in the PE area during the first quarter. CKCA is happy to still have him around for Band and Music classes.

**Barton Community College** Construction Technology Program Coordinator Matt Mazouch was recognized as the 2025 Post-Secondary Instructor of the Year for the Western Region at the Associated General Contractors (AGC) of Kansas and Build Up Kansas Conference in early November. Barton also received the Post-Secondary School of the Year

award for the Western Region.

The AGC presents these awards to recognize outstanding educators and institutions advancing workforce development in the construction industry. The organization represents Kansas's leading commercial contractors and works to strengthen the construction industry through education, advocacy, and workforce development.

Mazouch attributes the recognition to Barton's commitment to building strong relationships with regional industry partners. The college holds regular meetings with industry representatives to report on programs and gather feedback on improvements, allowing partners to help shape offerings according to workforce needs. "Four years ago, we didn't even have a construction or plumbing program on campus. It's exciting to see the progress," Mazouch said.

Plumbing Program Coordinator Jeff Meyer, who brings 38 years of plumbing industry experience, emphasized Barton's commitment to providing skilled workers for the region and beyond. "The students make the job fun and rewarding. They are a big reason why I love my job," he said.

Barton President Dr. Marcus Garstecki praised the recognition as well-deserved, noting that Mazouch and Meyer have played pivotal roles in shaping programs that offer high-quality, hands-on training for students entering essential trades.

For more information, contact Mazouch at mazouchm@bartonccc.edu or (620) 792-9336 or visit [construction.bartonccc.edu](http://construction.bartonccc.edu).



Brandy Loomis has been named executive director of **Sunflower Diversified Services**, bringing her career full circle at the non-profit agency. Two decades ago, she worked as a direct-support professional serving people with special needs in their homes. After raising her daughters and earning her nursing degree, she returned in 2018 as registered nurse before assuming her current leadership role.

"I have always just had a passion to support Sunflower's mission to provide options to people so they can lead the most independent lives possible," Loomis said. "It is more like a calling than a job."

Her residential and medical services backgrounds provide firsthand knowledge of daily operations and the compassionate care required. Loomis will navigate upcoming state regulatory changes affecting Day Services and Case Management, address the long-standing waiting list issue, and focus on employee recruitment.

"We always look for new people and new ideas," she said. "The work here, in every department, is rewarding, meaningful and purposeful."

A 2000 Great Bend High School graduate, Loomis earned her associate's degree in nursing from Barton Community College and will complete her bachelor's in nursing from Fort Hays State University in May. She and her husband, Tommy, have three daughters.

Board member Lisa Burdett praised Loomis as "uniquely qualified," noting her understanding of regulatory requirements, budget constraints, and strong advocacy for clients.

Sunflower serves infants, toddlers, and adults across Barton, Pawnee, Rice, Rush, and Stafford counties in its 59th year.

**Have news to share about your business or organization?**  
Submit your announcements, events, and updates at [greatbend.org/submitnews](http://greatbend.org/submitnews) or email your press release and high-resolution images to [marketing@greatbend.org](mailto:marketing@greatbend.org).

**People  
on the  
Move**



# Juvenile Services Strengthens Community Through Prevention, Partnership, and Pathways to Success

Across Central Kansas, the 20th Judicial District Juvenile Services (JS) continues to demonstrate how proactive programming, strong partnerships, and community engagement can change lives while strengthening the region as a whole. From hands-on service projects to workforce readiness and evidence-based intervention, Juvenile Services' work reflects a commitment to prevention, accountability, and positive outcomes for youth and families.

A key focus of Juvenile Services is helping young people build life skills that support long-term success. Recent Life Skills classes emphasized financial literacy, with local banking professionals guiding participants through budgeting, saving, and goal-setting strategies. Youth learned practical tools such as the 50/30/20 budgeting rule and discussed future plans ranging from opening savings accounts to long-term goals like purchasing vehicles or homes. These classes are designed to build confidence, independence, and decision-making skills that translate directly into future workforce readiness.

Juvenile Services also plays a critical role in education through its Day School program, which provides a structured yet supportive environment for students who need an alternative path. One recent success story involved a teenager who

completed academic requirements, earned a high school diploma, and returned to steady employment while planning for college and a career in business and law. The small classroom setting, individualized attention, and close coordination with local school districts allow students to remain accountable while rebuilding momentum toward graduation and employment.

Collaboration remains central to the agency's mission. Juvenile Services recently participated in the statewide Stepping Up for Youth conference in Wichita, where leaders from multiple counties focused on improving data collection and coordination among behavioral health, education, and justice partners. Barton County is one of seven Kansas counties participating in the pilot program, which emphasizes diverting youth from detention when appropriate and connecting families to community-based services. These efforts ensure resources are used effectively and outcomes are continually measured and improved.

Partnerships with law enforcement further enhance community safety and consistency. Juvenile Services regularly offers training sessions for officers across the district, focusing on updated juvenile regulations, Notices to Appear, detention procedures, and available intervention programs. Officers report increased confidence in responding to juvenile-related incidents and improved understanding of how families can access support services following



law-enforcement contact.

Beyond formal programs, Juvenile Services encourages youth to give back through community service and mentorship activities. Recent projects included park clean-ups at Brit Spaugh and Veterans parks, as well as mentoring outings like disc golf, which promote teamwork, responsibility, and positive relationships. These experiences reinforce accountability while allowing youth to contribute visibly to the community they call home.

Together, these initiatives reflect Juvenile Services' broader mission: empowering youth in Barton, Rice, Ellsworth, Stafford, and Russell counties to achieve positive outcomes through prevention, intervention, and collaboration. By investing in education, life skills, mental-health supports, and partnerships, Juvenile Services continues to strengthen both individual futures and the long-term vitality of Central Kansas.

20th Judicial District Juvenile Services empowers youth in Barton, Rice, Ellsworth, Stafford and Russell counties to achieve positive outcomes by offering Juvenile Intake & Assessment, Immediate Intervention, Intensive Supervised Probation, Case Management, Journey to Change, Life Skills, All Stars and Youth Crew. Parents and guardians also are offered The Parent Project. Visit 1800 12th in Great Bend or call 620-793-1930.





# Strengthening the Manufacturing Pipeline: Fuller Industries' Commitment to People and Progress

Great Bend-based Fuller Industries Inc. continues to demonstrate why manufacturing remains a cornerstone of the local and regional economy, combining operational excellence, workforce investment, and forward-looking innovation to meet evolving industry demands.

With roots stretching back more than a century, Fuller Industries has built a reputation as a trusted American manufacturer serving commercial, institutional, industrial, and aerospace markets. Today, the company's work extends well beyond product manufacturing, playing a strategic role in facility management, workforce development, and sustainable business practices.

Facility management—an increasingly critical function for organizations across all sectors—has emerged as a key focus area for Fuller. Company leaders emphasize that clean, safe, and efficiently operated facilities directly impact employee well-being, productivity, and long-term cost savings. As technology and health standards evolve, Fuller continues to support facility managers with solutions designed to improve operational efficiency while advancing sustainability goals.

Innovation is central to Fuller's approach. In response to widespread staffing shortages in the commercial cleaning industry, the company has introduced tools and product systems that help businesses "do more with less." These include advanced dosing systems, highly concentrated formulas, and natural cleaning technologies that reduce waste, lower transportation costs, and simplify workflows. Many of Fuller's products carry independent certifications such as EPA Safer Choice and Green Seal, reinforcing the company's commitment to environmental

responsibility without sacrificing performance.

Quality and precision manufacturing also remain defining strengths. Fuller Industries recently announced that its Brush/Gript Department successfully completed its annual ISO audit with zero nonconformances for the second consecutive year—a significant achievement in the aerospace manufacturing sector. The department holds both ISO 9001:2015 and AS9100D certifications, underscoring the company's rigorous quality management systems and the dedication of its skilled workforce.

Beyond production, Fuller actively invests in workforce awareness and future talent. In partnership with the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce, the company hosted a Manufacturing Month coffee as part of the national Manufacturing Day initiative. The event highlighted the importance of modern manufacturing careers and the need to inspire the next generation of skilled workers amid nationwide labor shortages. Company leaders emphasized collaboration among manufacturers as essential to strengthening communities and sustaining economic growth.

Together, these efforts reflect Fuller Industries' broader mission: to combine innovation, quality, sustainability, and people-focused leadership into a manufacturing operation that is both globally competitive and deeply rooted in the Great Bend community. As industry challenges evolve, Fuller's continued investment in excellence positions it—and the region's manufacturing sector—for long-term success.

## About Fuller Industries Inc.

Based in Great Bend, Kan., with a rich heritage dating back over a century to the Fuller Brush Man, Fuller Industries is a leading American manufacturer of industrial products, including cleaning chemicals and supplies, as well as brooms, mops, brushes and more. Fuller serves manufacturing, commercial, institutional and agricultural clients across the Western Hemisphere. Call 620-792-1711 or visit [Fullerindustriesinc.com](http://Fullerindustriesinc.com).



Save  
The  
Date

SATURDAY

FEBRUARY 28TH  
2026

GREAT BEND  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Annual  
Awards

BUSINESS  
OF THE  
YEAR

CITIZENS  
OF THE  
YEAR

NEXTGEN LEADER  
OF THE  
YEAR

GREAT BEND  
EVENTS CENTER

REGISTRATION  
OPEN SOON!





**FITNESS  
CLASSES**

**ENROLLING  
NOW**

[greatbendrec.com](http://greatbendrec.com)  
1214 Stone Street  
620-793-3755


**SCHEDULE**

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

**January 8th**  
**CATHOLIC CHARITIES GOLDEN HARVEST THRIFT STORE**  
**2410 Main Street**

The Golden Harvest Thrift Store directly supports local families through Catholic Charities emergency assistance and life-changing programs. Our thrift store not only offers quality, affordable goods – it helps sustain the mission of serving neighbors in need with dignity and compassion. Come see the impact your community is making, one donation and one purchase at a time.

**January 15th**  
**LANDMARK NATIONAL BANK**  
**1623 Main Street**

Landmark National Bank proudly serves communities across Kansas with 29 locations, including two in Great Bend. We're committed to supporting local individuals and businesses through personalized banking, comprehensive business services, and reliable home-lending solutions. We're honored to be part of the Great Bend community and dedicated to helping it continue to grow and thrive.

**January 22th**  
**GREAT BEND CHAMBER AMBASSADORS**  
**1125 Williams**

The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors are a volunteer group that supports the Chamber by welcoming new members, assisting with ribbon cuttings, groundbreakings, and networking events. Their efforts help strengthen business relationships and foster community connections across the region.

**January 29th**  
**HOLIDAY INN & SUITES**  
**3821 10th Street**

Holiday Inn Great Bend is proudly celebrating 10 years serving the Great Bend community, marking a decade of hospitality excellence. To commemorate the milestone, they've unveiled a freshly remodeled lobby that welcomes guests with modern comfort and upgraded style.

**February 5th**  
**CENTRAL KANSAS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY**  
**215 McKinley**

Central Kansas Christian Academy invites the community to celebrate its Open House, showcasing its commitment to Christ-centered education and academic excellence in Great Bend. With a focus on individualized instruction and Christian values, the academy partners with families to support each student's growth.



**CELEBRATING OVER 59 YEARS  
OF SERVING PEOPLE WITH  
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES!**

*There is a Difference.*

EARLY EDUCATION  
CASE MANAGEMENT  
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# ELEVATE *GBK*

## BEYOND TODAY

## 104TH ANNUAL CHAMBER AWARDS



February 28, 2026

GREAT BEND EVENT CENTER

An evening dedicated to enjoying the company of fellow business owners, entrepreneurs, and employees across Barton County.

### EXPERIENCE

Celebrating Business! Great Bend Chamber of Commerce's Annual Awards bring recognition to the many businesses and individuals who have shown an outstanding commitment to the area this year. The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce will bring attendees together for a Social Hour followed by a seated dinner and concludes with the awards program: NextGen Leader of the Year, Citizen of the Year, and Business of the Year.

### AUDIENCE

Between 350-400 individuals will be in attendance, representing a distinguished cross-section of the areas most accomplished and influential business professionals. Hundreds more will have the opportunity to view promotions of the event before and after.

### VENUE

The annual celebration will take place at the Great Bend Event Center.

### ALL SPONSORSHIPS INCLUDE:

- Sponsored Cocktail Hour Beer & Wine
- Inclusion on Chamber's Website Event Page
- Inclusion in Event Press Kit
- On-Screen Logo during Dinner
- Visibility with 3000+ followers across all chamber social media, publications and weekly email update



February 28, 2026  
GREAT BEND EVENT CENTER

# 104TH ANNUAL CHAMBER AWARDS

## PRESENTING VISIONARY SPONSOR \$3500 (3 AVAILABLE)

As a visionary business and employer, we invite you to stand alongside the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce.

- 2 VIP Tables for up to 10
  - First in line for dinner
  - 2 Bottles of wine
- Opportunity to present 1 of 3 awards
- Priority placement on signage
- Sponsor Logo and Mention in the following:
  - Exclusive shoutout on social media(sponsor provides video)
  - Printed program
  - Signage used during event
  - On-screen during the event
  - All event promotions, press releases, etc.

## CORPORATE TABLE SPONSOR \$1000

- 1 Table for up to 10
- Social Hour Beer & Wine
- 2 Bottles of wine
- Logo in printed program
- Reserved table placement
- Logo recognition on-screen and verbal "thank-you" during live event

## COCKTAIL HOUR SPONSOR \$4000 (1 AVAILABLE)

- 1 VIP Table for up to 10
- 2 Bottles of wine
- Sponsor Logo and Mention in the following:
  - Printed program
  - Exclusive Recognition during Cocktail Hour - print, on-screen, program
  - Exclusive shoutout on social media
  - Live mention during opening remarks

## EVENT EXPERIENCE SPONSORS

- Grazing Table Sponsors: \$500 (4 available)
- Hospitality Sponsors: (prime visibility during every restroom break; underwrites tissues, breath mints, hair spray, Tylenol, etc.) \$500 (4 available)
- Spotlight Sponsor (A/V&Lighting) Sponsors: \$250 (6 available)
- Silverware Logo Sponsor: \$500 (1 available)
- Photobooth Sponsor: \$250 (1 available)
- Tablescape/Centerpiece Sponsors: \$500 (4 available)





# 2026 ANNUAL ADVERTISING

## VISIBILITY MATTERS!



Reach decision-makers across Barton County and beyond—business owners, managers, educators, and local, state, and federal officials—through our two proven channels. Choose print, digital, or both for consistent, multi-touch visibility.



### PRINT: OUTLOOK BUSINESS JOURNAL (MONTHLY)

#### Audience & Reach

- Distributed to 1,500+ area business representatives, community members, and elected officials
- Approx. 3,500 readers across print and online archives for ongoing exposure
- Every issue is available for online reading—your ad keeps working after delivery

#### Why It Works

- Trusted, Chamber-endorsed publication
- Evergreen shelf life—kept on desks and in lobbies
- Repetition builds recognition across 12 issues

#### Ad Options

##### 3" x 5" Tile Ad — \$150/mo or \$1,700/yr

- Full-color, eye-catching placement in all 12 issues (print + digital)
- Consistent branding month after month (or refresh your creative monthly)
- Annual option saves vs. month-to-month

##### 5.5" x 8.5" Mail Panel Ad — \$450/mo

- Full-color prime placement on the mail panel for maximum impressions
- Ideal for launches, promos, and events not covered in articles

##### 8.5" x 11" Flyer Insert — \$450 (1-sided) | \$600 (2-sided)

- We print and mail your full-page flyer inside the Outlook Business Journal
- Turnkey: we handle printing + mailing so you save time and hassle

### DIGITAL: WEEKLY EMAIL (EVERY WEEK)

#### Audience & Reach

- Sent to 2,000+ business representatives and community members, including elected officials
- Open and click rates consistently exceed industry averages
- Instant traffic to your website, landing page, or event signup

#### Why It Works

- Weekly cadence keeps you top of mind
- Clickable placements drive measurable action
- Easy to swap creative for timely offers

#### Ad Options

##### Exclusive Top Banner (2" x 8.5") — \$3000/yr (\$250/mo)

- Guaranteed top placement (one advertiser)
- Linked to the URL of your choice
- Keep the same design for consistency or update monthly

##### Mid-Email Block/Tile (2.75" x 5") — \$50/wk or \$175/mo

- Prominent mid-message placement for high visibility
- Great for spotlighting products, services, or limited-time offers

##### Member-to-Member Stand-Alone Email — \$350 each

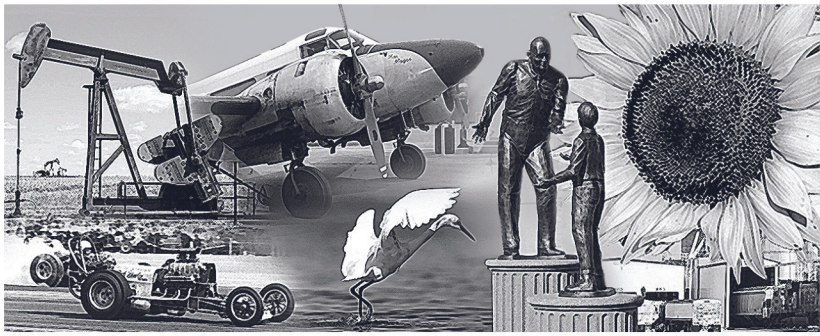
- A dedicated email featuring only your content
- Collaborate with our team on copy and layout
- Subject to availability; allow 2–3 weeks for preferred release dates



**DEADLINE 12/31/25**

Contact Ashley Hickman, Marketing Director - [marketing@greatbend.org](mailto:marketing@greatbend.org)





# Further **Your** Reach!

Your Guide to **Year-Round** Visibility

## Annual Membership Directory

Be part of the one resource our community turns to all year to find trusted businesses.

The Great Bend Chamber Membership Directory & Community Guide gives you 12 months of exposure—both in print and online—so your company shows up wherever people look: email, social media, our high-traffic website, and in thousands of printed copies across the region.

### Why It's Worth It

- **Built-In Credibility** – Chamber members are the first place our community looks for reliable providers. Your business is already listed—upgrade with a display ad to stand out.
- **Multi-Channel Reach** – Your ad appears in the printed guide and digital edition shared via email, social media, and prominently linked on [greatbend.org](http://greatbend.org).
- **All-Year Shelf Life** – One placement keeps working for you for 12 months—no renewals or juggling schedules.
- **Targeted Distribution** – Delivered to 3,000+ business representatives, community members, and elected officials, and shared with visitors, hotels, and real estate prospects.
- **Design Made Easy** – Submit your own design or let us create one for you for just \$25.

#### PRICING

Full page	\$1400
Inside front cover	\$3,000
Inside back cover	\$2,000
Half page	\$950
Quarter page	\$500
Eighth page	\$350



### Reserve Your Spot Today!

Don't miss your chance to be featured in the Chamber's most visible publication of the year. Contact Ashley Hickman at [marketing@greatbend.org](mailto:marketing@greatbend.org) to secure your space now.



**DEADLINE**  
**12/31/25**

Contact Ashley Hickman, Marketing Director - [marketing@greatbend.org](mailto:marketing@greatbend.org)



CHECK OUT THE LATEST NEWS FROM THE GREAT BEND CHAMBER BUSINESS COMMUNITY!

# OUTLOOK

**GREAT BEND**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE  
GREAT BEND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

business journal

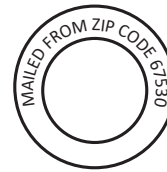
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Mens Night Out  
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Saturday, March 28th, 2025

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