

# OUTLOOK

**GREAT BEND**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

MARCH 2022  
VOLUME 101 NO. 3

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE  
GREAT BEND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

business journal

1921



YEARS 2021

## CHAMBER AWARD WINNERS RECOGNIZED DURING

### 100TH ANNUAL BANQUET & AWARDS NIGHT



February 19th saw the long-awaited return of the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting & Awards at the Great Bend Events Center. This was the 100th annual gala themed “100 Years in the Making,” and featured several guests including US Senator Jerry Moran, Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt, NHRA Division V Director Rob Park, and special Keynote Speakers Dr. Nels and Nash Lindberg. Recognition of BCYP, Ambassadors Club and the Chamber Board of Directors highlighted exceptional leaders in

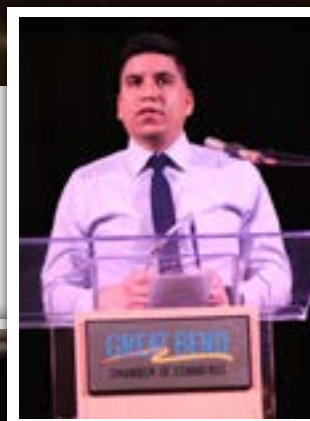
volunteer roles. Scott Donovan served as emcee. As is tradition during the semi-formal event, the Chamber presented a number of awards to deserving volunteers in our community, including the introduction of the “Chambies.”

Three deserving Ambassadors received the first ever Chambie Awards starting with Kris Sundahl who won the Most Chamber Calls. Brad Shirer won a dual award for “Hosted the Mosted” AND Appeared in the most Ribbon Cutting photos, and receiving the Lifetime Ambassador Achievement Award, Jan Westfall.

Overwhelmingly, this year’s community and business award winners shared a common theme of investing in the community and the people who live here. The first community/business award of the evening was the NextGen Leader of the Year awarded to local soccer coach and youth mentor “Chuy” Jesus Loera, Jr. Andrea Bauer, public information officer for the Unified School District 428, and Danny and Junior Franko, former student athletes, presented the award.

Dr. Perry Smith received the Citizen of the Year award for lifelong dedication to improving the health and well-being of his community. For demonstrating excellence in the marketplace, a positive response and exceptional customer service in the face adversity to the likes they’ve never known, the coveted Business of the Year was awarded to Bryant Funeral Home, owned by Michael Nicholson.


And finally, the Sunflower Rod Custom Association and their volunteers received the Legacy Award for their endless dedication to preserving the history that is the SRCA Dragstrip. Read more about these award winners on the Chamber website or see their feature articles in the Great Bend Tribune or on the Great Bend Post.



**READ THEIR STORIES:** [greatbend.org/awardprograms](https://greatbend.org/awardprograms)



*here for you*



**WE DO I.T.**  
 CLOUD  
 INFRASTRUCTURE  
 MANAGED IT  
 SECURITY

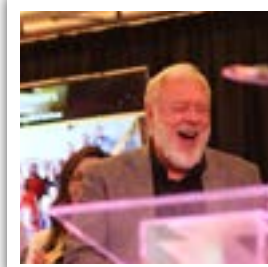
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# Award Winners Recognized

continued from page 1



Emcee, Scott Donovan, kept the crowd entertained between presentors.



Brad Shirer won a "Chambie", Hosted the Mosted & Appeared in the Most Ribbon Cutting Photos.



Laura Blankenship sang our national anthem.



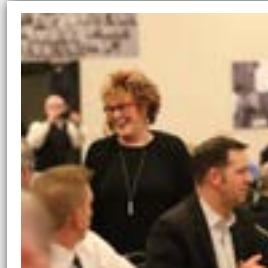
Senator Jerry Moran kicked off the evening.



All enjoyed live music during the social hour and dinner by the Jay Bennett Jazz Quartet.



Below: Dr. Nels Lindberg and son, Nash, had the room captivated with a Keynote on adversity.



Lifetime Ambassador Achievement Award recipient Jan Westfall



Far bottom right: NHRA Division V Director Rob Park presented the Legacy Award. He gave kudos to Great Bend and its efforts in maintaining the historic dragstrip.

Middle: Legacy Award winners, Sunflower Rod Custom Association and their volunteers



The largest gathering of our members in recent history, and an excellent networking opportunity, this year's banquet celebrated 100 years of the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce. The event featured enlarged photographs from the Barton County Historical Society, Great Bend Tribune, and member submissions.

Photo credit: Cadence Barfield & Andrea Orona



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
KANSAS HEALTH SYSTEM

## Committed to Caring for the Great Bend Community

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](http://kansashealthsystem.com/greatbend)



# Thousands of Kansas-grown plants, grown and delivered by Kelly's Garden Sense

Every industry has been impacted by supply chain issues. Instead of continuing to look to outside suppliers offering limited stock and lack of unique plants and color desired, Kelly's Garden Sense is plant-ing roots here at home to solve this issue. Kelly's Garden Sense built a greenhouse, in summer 2021, and is now growing their own product. But the concept remains the same, they still bring the Green-house to customers' front doors.

"We now have over 6,000 plants in pots," said Kelly Moeder, owner of Kelly's Garden Sense. "Come this spring season, we won't face the same limited stock on the unique plants we use for our pottery and landscape design. We will continue to offer clients, both residential and commercial, something unique that stands out from the crowd."

"This is a HUGE dream realized for me personally and professionally! Our goal is to have better, bigger, and more available products than we could buy in previous years," said Kelly. "The plants are coming along will bring our signature POP of color year-round."

Experience the difference of Kansas-



grown plants and unique landscape and pottery designs built for the heat, reach out to Kelly and her team to learn more about their new products and Greenhouse to your door service!

## Exclusive to Chamber Members & Guests! SAVE THE DATE for PINTS & POLITICS

April 13th is your chance to get in on the latest legislative updates. Join us for the first Barton County Pints & Politics on Tuesday, April 13th!

Pints & Politics brings the business community together to discuss current and future political topics that impact our community and businesses. This freewheeling discussion takes place in a social, happy hour atmosphere.

Chat and Chew over Pints & Politics with local elected officials and state legislators, alongside peers of the business community. The event begins

at 4:30 p.m. and concludes at 6:30 p.m. A brief program will introduce all elected officials and legislators to those in attendance, and of course, there will be door prizes!

Light app's and a cash bar will be open throughout the event.

While free for members to attend, we ask that you please register.

Questions? Call the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce at 620-792-2401.

This event is produced by the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce and sponsored by Hutchinson Regional Medical Center.



### Outlook Business Journal

A monthly publication of the

## GREAT BEND

### CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

1125 Williams,  
Great Bend, KS 67530  
Phone: 620-792-2401  
Fax: 620-792-2404  
www.greatbend.org

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Khirs Thexton, USD 428

### CHAMBER STAFF

Megan Barfield, President/CEO  
Lee Ann June, Communications & Program Coordinator  
Tayler Stegman, Office Manager

## FREE E-WASTE RECYCLING



Does your *residence* or *business* have *electronics* in need of *safe and responsible recycling*?

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Printers  
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Laptops  
Televisions  
Video Game Consoles  
DVD Players  
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Telephone Equipment  
...and More!

## DROP-OFF LOCATIONS

Rosewood  
Maintenance Building  
2200 Main St., Great Bend  
Mon - Fri, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Rosewood Bargain Barn  
1215 Main St., Great Bend  
Mon - Fri, 10:00 am - 6:00 pm

By recycling with us, you benefit your community, the environment, and you help create jobs for individuals with developmental disabilities.

You will receive a tax deduction receipt when you drop off unwanted electronics.

Rosewood ecycle  
2200 Main St.  
Great Bend  
South of the Dairy Queen!



CONTACT INFORMATION  
(620) 603-8348  
www.RosewoodServices.com

The Mission of Rosewood ecycle is to provide work-related training and employment opportunities to adults with developmental disabilities.

## Ribbon Cuttings

## City of Great Bend Celebrates Completion of the Turf Project with a Ribbon Cutting



The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce staff and Ambassador's Club joined City of Great Bend staff along with community members for a ribbon cutting. The ribbon cutting followed a Chamber Coffee to commemorate the completion of the turf project at the Sports Complex. City Administrator, Kendal Francis, spoke to the group about the city partnering with the Great Bend Recreation Commission to complete this project before spring sports are in full swing.

## Chamber celebrated new member, Sierra Pacific Mortgage, with a ribbon cutting



The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce staff and Ambassador Club joined Sierra Pacific Mortgage Company staff from Great Bend and Wichita for a ribbon cutting. The grand opening of Sierra Pacific Mortgage Company in Great Bend was hosted by local lender, Heather Miessler. Miessler spoke to the group about Sierra Pacific providing high-quality mortgage lending services, and the team she has behind her.

The Great Bend office is a part of the Wichita team which is a thriving market on its own. However, they are a part of a larger team of experts throughout the country. Sierra Pacific is doing business in 49 states with around 800 employees across the country. As a region, Sierra Pacific has helped over 1300 customers in 2021.

Located in the heart of Great Bend's downtown, 2015 Forest Ave, Suite 100. For more information call the office number at 620-400-0370 or Miessler's cell at 620-786-4272. Miessler shared her passion for what she does and her excitement for what Sierra Pacific Mortgage Company can do for people in this area. She went on to say, "I'm local and easy to find and ready to serve my community."

PROUD SPONSOR OF THE  
**HOME & GARDEN SHOW**

**MARCH 19TH**

**Comfort Pro Inc.**

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LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR SERVICES AND ENTER  
TO WIN A BACKYARD GIFT BASKET

**GREAT BEND EVENTS CENTER**  
**MARCH 19**  
**9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.**



# HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS IN MARCH

**3...Chamber Coffee & Ribbon Cutting: Reh Insurance Group, 1121 Washington St., Program @9:30am on the Chamber's Facebook Page or You Tube Channel**

4...Mamma Mia, Barton Community College, 245 NE 30 Rd., 7:30pm

5... Mamma Mia, Barton Community College, 245 NE 30 Rd., 2pm & 7:30pm

5...Comedy at the Crest, 1905 Lakin Ave., 8pm

6...VFW Post 3111, open to the public, 504 Washington St., 11:30am

8...Barton County YEC, Great Bend Event Center, 3111 10th St., 11am

8...Freddy's Fundraiser for CKCA, 3008 10th St., 5pm

**10...Chamber Coffee: Pilot Club of Great Bend, Perkins Restaurant, 2029 10th St., Program @9:30am on the Chamber's Facebook Page or You Tube Channel**

**10...Chamber Ribbon Cutting: Pump Nutrition, 2122 Main St., 10am**

11...USD 428: No School – Teacher Grading/Collaboration

12...Barton County Young Professionals Casino Night, Columbus Club, 6pm

13...VFW Post 3111, open to the public, 504 Washington St., 11:30am

14-18...USD 428 Spring Break

15...Central Kansas Partnership Meeting, 1400 Main St., 1:30pm

17...Ladies Night Out St. Patty's Day!

**17...Chamber Coffee & Ribbon Cutting: Dropping 22 Inc., 916 Williams St., Program @9:30am on the Chamber's Facebook Page or You Tube Channel**

19...Dilly & Doc Spring Pop Up Market, 1119 Main St., 10am

19...4th Annual Eagle Radio Home and Garden Show, Events Center, 3111 10th St., 9am

20...VFW Post 3111, open to the public, 504 Washington St., 11:30am

**22...Chamber Blue Informative Meetings, 1125 Williams, 8am & Noon**

**23...Open Agenda Business Roundtable, 1125 Williams, 8:30am**

**24...Chamber Coffee: Great Bend Coffee, 2015 Lakin Ave., in Great Bend, Program @9:30am on the Chamber's Facebook Page or You Tube Channel**

26...Vet's Elite Disc Golf Tournament, Vets Park Disc Golf Course, McKinley St., 9am

26...Family Crisis Center's Bunco Night

27...VFW Post 3111, open to the public, 504 Washington St., 11:30am

28...What's Up, Great Bend?! Chamber, Economic Development, and City/CVB team up to share upcoming events

**31...Chamber Coffee: Wheatland Electric, 200 10th St., in Great Bend, Program @9:30am on the Chamber's Facebook Page or You Tube Channel**

## Recurring Events:

Great Bend City Council Meetings, 1st & 3rd Mondays, City Hall, 1209 Williams, 6:30pm

Barton County Commission Meetings, Every Wednesday, Barton County Courthouse, 1400 Main St, Rm 106, 9am.

Visit [greatbend.org/events/calendar](http://greatbend.org/events/calendar) for a full list of great events taking place throughout the month!

**Virtual Chamber Events (Chamber Chat & Virtual Coffees) can be found: via Facebook ([www.facebook.com/gbcoc](http://www.facebook.com/gbcoc)) or YouTube ([tinyurl.com/ybepgrt6](http://tinyurl.com/ybepgrt6))**

**STAY INFORMED AT [GREATBEND.ORG](http://GREATBEND.ORG)**

## New Hires & Promotions

### Spectrum CPA Partners welcomes Kayla Wimmer

Spectrum CPA Partners, LLC, is excited to announce that Kayla Wimmer has started with us as a CPA.

Kayla grew up in Bushton, Kansas, and went to school at Barton Community College and Fort Hays State University. She obtained her CPA license

in 2014. Kayla has worked in accounting for the past several years and is excited to get back to income tax work!

Kayla enjoys reading Stephen King novels in her spare time. She and her husband Josh have 3 children. Welcome Kayla!



Kayla Wimmer

## GREAT BEND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**WELCOME**  
to Our **NEWEST**  
Chamber Members

### DAYLIGHT DONUTS

Shanda Wagner, Owner  
[shandaholm@hotmail.com](mailto:shandaholm@hotmail.com)  
(620) 639-0383  
3324 10th Street  
Great Bend, KS 67530  
**Donut Shop**

### EQUITY BANK

Amy Herrera, Bank Manager  
[aherrera@equitybank.com](mailto:aherrera@equitybank.com)  
(620) 793-5900  
1321 Main Street  
Great Bend, KS 67530  
[www.equitybank.com](http://www.equitybank.com)  
**Financial Services**

### PUMP NUTRITION

Ashly & Robert Davis, Owners  
(620) 269-1616  
[pumpnutritiongb@yahoo.com](mailto:pumpnutritiongb@yahoo.com)  
2122 Main Street  
Great Bend, KS 67530  
[robert-davis.goherbalife.com](mailto:robert-davis.goherbalife.com)  
**Health Food, Vitamins & Herbs**

### GREAT BEND EVENING LIONS

Elwyn Maneth, President  
(620) 797-0719  
[emaneth@yahoo.com](mailto:emaneth@yahoo.com)

**Non-Profit Organizations/Clubs**

## WANT TO JOIN THE CHAMBER?

If your company is interested in joining the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce, fill out the online application on our website: [www.greatbend.org](http://www.greatbend.org). Membership is quick and easy to get started, and it is affordable, too!

**Sign up on our website:**

[www.greatbend.org/eventregistration](http://www.greatbend.org/eventregistration)



# 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY FACELIFT

## The High Rise Celebrates their Golden Anniversary with a \$16M Renovation

The High Rise has been a part of the Great Bend, Kansas skyline since the building's construction in 1972. The building was originally built to accommodate the growing number of senior citizens in the Great Bend area.

"The High Rise has seen a lot of wear in the last 50 years and was in need of a renovation," says Lynn Fleming, Executive Director of the Great Bend Housing Authority. "We are excited for the upgrades that have been made and we are anxiously anticipating the final completion of the building later this summer. This is a great way to celebrate our golden anniversary."

The High Rise's first groundbreaking was held November 23rd, 1970 and the project was completed in the first few weeks of 1972. Originally costing \$1.8 million dollars to construct, the 12-story High Rise was home to people 62 and older with a few 2-bedroom units, but primarily one-bedroom and studio apartments. In April 2021, the Great Bend Housing

Authority broke ground on what would begin a \$16 million dollar renovation project, upgrading the whole building and converting most of the studio units into 1-bedroom units targeting individuals 55 years of age and older.

"We've opened up many of the walls between two studio apartments to make them into 1-bedroom units since those are more commonly requested," says Fleming. "We have also updated the age requirements for our building, focusing on seniors 55+. Other age groups can also apply, but at least 80% of our building will be reserved for senior housing."

In the months leading up to the renovation beginning, units were not being leased after people moved out, so that occupancy would be under 50% when construction began. Tenants were only living on the bottom 4 floors while construction took place on the top half of the building. "Once Phase One was complete

in January, we began the process of moving tenants up to the new units on the top floors," Fleming says. "After everyone was moved, construction began on the lower levels as Phase Two got started."

Hutton Construction, a Kansas-based general contractor, is leading the renovation. Since a massive multi-phase renovation like this is different than new construction, the GBHA staff has relied heavily on Hutton's expertise. "We have been so impressed with Hutton's team and the efficiencies and experience they've brought to this project," Fleming commented. "For example, they set up a 'workshop' of sorts on the top floor, which allowed them to pre-cut all of the various framing components they would need throughout the building. They also helped make recommendations on how to handle situations that arose during construction, and have been key in keeping things moving ahead on schedule."

The improvements being







made include each unit getting brand new cabinets and countertops, new appliances, new bathrooms, new light fixtures, new doors and trim, new flooring, and more. Upgrades were also made to the building common areas such as new paint, upgraded light fixtures and flooring, and a more open office and reception area. Behind the walls and ceilings, new electrical, plumbing, and duct work will also ensure the safety and functionality of the building for decades to come. "It's the little things that will really make a difference to the way the building feels for our tenants," Fleming says. "Not only will everything look and smell like new, but the upgrades we're making are practical as well. For example, the units used to have miniature appliances, but now will feature full sized refrigerators and ranges. They will also each have a unit doorbell, which they didn't have before."

Maintenance will also be much easier after the renovations are complete. Prior to the project being undertaken, any water leaks or plumbing issues would require an entire corner of the building being turned off for maintenance, occasionally requiring

the whole building's water supply to be temporarily turned off. Now, each unit has its own shut-off so no other tenants will be affected when one unit needs work done.

The High Rise Apartments is a pet-friendly, non-smoking, secured building located in downtown Great Bend within walking distance to many restaurants and local businesses. The stunning views of the city are a common perk of living there, but tenants also enjoy other amenities as well. A shared Great Room is available for tenants to use when entertaining family and friends on the 12th floor. Staff are full time and available on-site during the week for easy access and communication. Tenants also enjoy the community aspect of living in an apartment building, with friends and neighbors close by.

"Probably the biggest perk of living in the High Rise Apartments is that we are the most affordable senior living option in the area," Fleming added. "Not only is our rent based on income, but we also include all the utilities so tenants just make one flat payment each month and it's much easier to budget around. For people on a fixed

income, this is really important."

While the High Rise Apartments draws a lot of attention to the Great Bend Housing Authority, it's only one of the two programs operated by the organization. GBHA also operates a Section 8, tenant-based low-income housing assistance program, providing rent assistance for tenants that are leasing privately owned housing with other landlords in town. Both programs have waiting lists, and both require paperwork for income verification and reference checks. Operating the two housing programs are a total of four full-time employees handling tenant relations, operations, maintenance, security, and groundskeeping. The staff is overseen by a volunteer Board of Commissioners.

Applications are still being accepted for the newly renovated High Rise Apartments, and more information about the Great Bend Housing Authority can be found at [www.gbhaks.com](http://www.gbhaks.com). The GBHA office is located inside the High Rise and is open five days per week at 1101 Kansas Avenue. For more information, contact GBHA at 620-793-7761.





**GREAT BEND**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

# PINTS & POLITICS

Wed. April 13th  
4:30-6:30pm

Dry Lake Brewing  
1305 Main Street

Sponsored By



Phone: **620-792-5700**

1905 19th Street in Great Bend, Kansas

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## Schenkel Construction Celebrates 40 with Butler

Schenkel Construction is proud to be your local Butler Builder® representing the world's leading producer of building solutions- Butler Manufacturing™ since March 1982. A legacy of quality craftsmanship and commercial building started by Ray Schenkel and continued today by Scott Schenkel and his crew at Schenkel Construction Company, Inc.

"We are your experienced, local construction partner and turn-key provider of Butler Buildings," said Scott Schenkel, owner. "Just like my dad, Ray, always said- "We build the best and fix the rest."

No matter what type of project you are trying to build, Schenkel is your partner for commercial, residential, and epoxy flooring needs.



Just a few of the many Butler Buildings completed in Barton County and surrounding areas. In 40 years, Schenkel has constructed over 5 million in Butler Building systems, from the farm to commercial offices, an airplane hangar, a veterinarian office expansion, and more.

## Adams Brown Wins ClearlyRated's 2022 Best of Accounting Award for Service Excellence

**Clients of winning firms are 60% more likely to be completely satisfied.**

Adams Brown, a leading regional CPA and business advisory firm, recently won the Best of Accounting Award for providing superior service to their clients. ClearlyRated's Best of Accounting® Award winners have proven to be industry leaders in service quality based entirely on ratings provided by their clients.

"Going above+beyond means putting the businesses and executives we serve at the center of everything we do. This survey was part of a larger initiative to gather feedback and implement changes to enhance the Adams Brown client experience," said Brian Staats, CPA, CGMA, managing partner.

On average, clients of 2022 Best of

Accounting winners are 60% more likely to be satisfied than those who work with non-winning firms. Adams Brown received satisfaction scores of 9 or 10 out of 10 from 72.9% of their clients, significantly higher than the industry's average of 53% in 2021.

"Winners of the 2022 Best of Accounting award for client satisfaction have demonstrated their commitment to delivering exceptional client service, even as COVID-19 has forced them to reimagine and rebuild their approach to business," said ClearlyRated's CEO and Founder, Eric Gregg. "These service leaders have kept the client experience at the heart of their business strategy, and it's my honor to celebrate and showcase the 2022 Best of Accounting winners alongside feedback from their actual clients on ClearlyRated.com!"



# Great Bend Chamber of Commerce Announces Chamber Blue of Kansas

## Association Health Plan powered by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas

The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce a new partnership with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas (BCBSKS) and Chamber of Commerce Executives of Kansas (CCEKS). This partnership stitches together 30 other local Chambers of Commerce across Kansas to offer an Association Health Plan called Chamber Blue of Kansas.

The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce and all chambers involved in this partnership realize and recognize that recruiting and retaining talent is vital for business and industry of all sizes, especially small businesses. Having access to trusted health insurance benefits is a crucial piece to that success. According to SBA statistics, small businesses equate to over 99.1% of all businesses in Kansas with a combined total of 605,147 small business employees in Kansas.

An Association Health Plan is a type of group medical insurance for organizations that allow smaller companies to access the health insurance savings associated with large group medical coverage.



**BlueCross  
BlueShield  
of Kansas**

Through this, small business, non-profits, and organizations can band together to purchase insurance. That allows more people in the pool, which lowers risk across the pool, and provides more health insurance options, potentially with much more competitive premiums.

Blue Cross Blue Shield of KS has the largest provider network in Kansas with 99% of physicians in-network, and 100% of hospitals in network. BCBSKS also provides a very robust package of health care solutions like their HealthyOptions program, which is a powerful set of services, tools, and one-on-one support to live a healthy life at no extra cost as a BCBSKS member.

Interested business owners, non-profits, and organizations are encouraged to attend one of three information sessions to be held on Tuesday, March 22, 2022, from

8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., and 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. with a BYOLunch & Learn (Bring Your Own Lunch, drinks and dessert will be provided), in the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce Board Room located at 1125 Williams St., in Great Bend. The partnership will continue to host information sessions and answer questions with the goal of all interested organizations completing an interest survey during August 2022. The initial rates will be determined in September 2022 based on groups/businesses that have completed the survey and plans will become effective January 1, 2023.

For more information regarding the qualification criteria and more interested parties are asked to visit <https://www.bcbsks.com/chamberblueks> or contact the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce by phone at 620-792-2401 or by email at [mbarfield@greatbend.org](mailto:mbarfield@greatbend.org).

# Jim and Kathi Armatys donate trailer to Kids Ag Day

Members of the Kids Ag Day committee gathered around their new trailer donated by Jim and Kathi Armatys. Thanks to this generous donation, the Ag committee will have year-round storage for tables and chairs used during the annual Kids Ag Day event for area fourth graders held in September.

Committee co-chair Scott Dewerff says this second trailer will be so helpful from year to year. "In the past we've hauled tables and chairs from one storage facility to another, usually in one of our committee member's sheds or barns. Now we can load them all in the trailers where they'll stay until the next Kids Ag Day event."

Park Elementary School principal, Adam Cline along with Ms. Leidig's and Ms. Henry's fourth grade classes joined in thanking the Armatys'.

"Kids Ag Day is such a great event for our fourth graders! To have an entire day spent on a farm learning in a hands-on way about where their food comes from is just



priceless," commented Adam Cline, Park Elementary School Principal.

Mark's Custom Signs donated time placing the Kids Ag Day logo on the trailer. Mark and Denise Guthrie of Mark's Custom Signs were also in attendance and thanked for their gracious support of the program over the years.

## About Kids Ag Day

Kids Ad Day is produced annually by the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce's Agri-Business committee whose volunteers work diligently to provide educational opportunities to all fourth-grade students in Barton County. This annual event is held each September in partnership with the school districts and numerous of local business volunteers. Kids Ag Day celebrated its 25th Anniversary in 2018.





# GREAT BEND

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## FEATURED AMBASSADOR

*Kristin*

*McAllister*

*Sunflower Bank*



### ***What brought you to Great Bend? What keeps you here?***

I am born and raised here. My husband and I did move to Salina for 7 years and moved back in 2020 to be close to family and friends.

### ***Where do you work and what do you do there?***

Sunflower Bank. I would say I put out a lot of fires in a day! I oversee 6 employees and work daily reports for the bank.

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

As a little girl when I was growing up I was a major tomboy. I loved playing with toy cars and getting dirty.

### ***What energizes you and brings you excitement?***

My husband and son Cameron bring me inspiration. They both are my whole world.

### ***At what job, would you be terrible?***

Probably a lot of things! I would say working outside in the cold/heat just because I would be complaining the whole time about the weather.

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

This is my first year as an Ambassador. I love the networking it creates and getting to know people in our community.

### ***About Chamber Ambassadors:***

The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce Ambassador Club is made up of 30 men and women from the Great Bend business community who represent the Chamber in a number of ways. To find out how you can become a member of the Ambassador Club, contact Lee Ann June at the Chamber office, 620-792-2401, [marketing@greatbend.org](mailto:marketing@greatbend.org), or [www.greatbend.org/ambassadors](http://www.greatbend.org/ambassadors)





# Golden Belt Community Foundation 2022 Community Building Grant Opportunity

Golden Belt Community Foundation (GBCF) invites proposals for its competitive grant cycle focused on building the community around us. These funds support a wide-variety of needs in Barton, Pawnee, Rush, and Stafford County that serve the community at large including but not limited to: quality of life improvements; arts and culture; enhancing community destination points; charitable economic opportunity; planning and development. Community projects can leverage grants and/or funds received from other resources



with the Spring Community Building Grant from GBCF for greater community impact.

Applications now are being accepted from qualified 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations and public institutions, including schools, government entities, and other charitable organizations in Barton, Pawnee, Rush, and Stafford counties.

Applications are available online by clicking Receive, and then Grants on the foundation website at [www.goldenbeltcf.org](http://www.goldenbeltcf.org). Grant guidelines also are posted on the website. If you have any questions, please contact the GBCF office.

Applications must be postmarked by Tuesday, April 1st. Grants will be awarded by the middle of May. For questions about grants, please contact Teresa Powelson, Program Officer at 620-792-3000 or email [teresa@goldenbeltcf.org](mailto:teresa@goldenbeltcf.org).

## Barton County Young Professionals gear up for 2022 and beyond

With a renewed sense of purpose following obstacles and event cancellations caused by the pandemic, BCYP's Steering committee hosted the 1st Annual Kick-off Celebration at Dry Lake Brewing thanks to these sponsors: Burton Real Estate, Result\$ Realty, Coldwell Banker - Sell Real Estate, MPIRE Realty Group, and Keller Real Estate. The Steering Committee and significant others heard from Megan Barfield, Great Bend Chamber of Commerce President/CEO about the importance of Young Professional program, "BCYP is a key component in achieving a thriving community and workforce. Having an active YP program gives our employers another tool in their belt when it comes to recruiting and retaining young professionals. We need YP to help connect individuals to the things we all love about Great Bend and Barton County."

The Chamber believes in the adage "it takes a village." Barfield elaborates, saying, "Being on this committee isn't just something to be proud of. You are strengthening a platform to give other YP's the opportunity to connect with their community and their profession on a deeper level. Having a super engaged YP program helps make the Chamber's, CVB's, and Economic Development's jobs a little easier and helps our area become a little more attractive."

The Chamber also recognizes that workforce continues to be a business owner's top concern. With that in mind, they are invited to include information about BCYP and the Chamber in their recruitment and onboarding processes. Call or stop by the Chamber for more information.

### BCYP: What they are about

Started in 2012 under the direction of

the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce, the Barton County Young Professionals program is designed to foster business and social networking among working individuals in the Barton County area.

1. Lead. Developing young leaders in today's workforce.
2. Network. Fostering business and social networking.
3. Volunteer. Providing opportunities to give back to the community.

Anyone who lives in the Barton County area between the ages of 21 and 40(ish) is welcome and encouraged to participate. Members enjoy a variety of monthly events, which rotate between sponsored networking events, lunch-and-learn meetings, leadership events, family socials, and community impact projects.

### YP Events on the Horizon

2022 is bringing with it the return of gatherings and the steering committee cannot wait to see other YP's and introduce

the program to the many new YP's who have moved to Barton County in the last two years! First up, is Casino Night followed by leadership luncheons and more.

### Casino Night is Back!

Barton County Young Professionals are invited to the 9th Annual Casino Night on Saturday, March 12th at the Columbus Club, 723 Main St. Casino Night is proudly sponsored by First Kansas Bank. Suggested attire for the evening is "snappy casual!"

Following a delicious dinner, catered by the Columbus Club, and program, attendees will be invited to enjoy exciting casino games, social networking, and prize drawings at the end of the night. Only 200 tickets will be sold, so reserve yours early! Tickets are \$25 per person for general admission dinner tickets, or companies can reserve corporate-sponsored tables with program recognition for \$400 (table of eight). Corporate tables will receive VIP treatment and extra perks!

Find them on Facebook: [@bartonyp](https://www.facebook.com/bartonyp) or [www.bartonyp.com](http://www.bartonyp.com).

**March 12, 2022**

**6pm**  
Social Hour & Cash Bar

**7pm**  
Dinner & Brief Program

**8-10pm**  
Entertainment  
Galore! Casino  
Games & More!

**10:30pm** Prize Drawings

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**CELEBRATING OVER 55 YEARS  
OF SERVING PEOPLE WITH  
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES!**

*There is a Difference.*

EARLY EDUCATION  
CASE MANAGEMENT  
DISABILITY SUPPORTS  
RESIDENTIAL ASSISTANCE  
COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT  
RECYCLING & MANUFACTURING  
GENERAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
& MUCH MORE!

**620-792-1325**  
**WWW.SUNFLOWERDIV.COM**

## **Hutchinson Clinic Physicians Serving the Great Bend, Hoisington & Ellinwood Areas**

### **GREAT BEND:**

Hutchinson Clinic Great Bend / 3715 6th Street  
Dr. Jamil Ahmed, Cardiologist  
Dr. Aaron Thiessen, Ear Nose & Throat  
Dr. Curt Thompson, Interventional Radiologist  
Natalie Williams, PA, Pulmonology

### **ELLINWOOD:**

Ellinwood Medical Clinic / 611 N. Main  
Dr. Jamil Ahmed, Cardiologist

### **HOISINGTON:**

Clara Barton Medical Clinic / 250 W 9th St  
Dr. Costy Mattar, Cardiologist  
Dr. Christine Sanders, OBGYN  
Dr. Curt Thompson, Interventional Radiologist

*Exceptional Care Close to Home*



**Call for an appointment: 620-669-2500**  
**www.hutchclinic.com**

# **CHAMBER COFFEE SCHEDULE**

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

Tune in on Facebook or YouTube for Virtual Coffees

**March 3rd**

**REH INSURANCE GROUP**

**1121 Washington St. Ste. B**

Reh Insurance Group is an independent insurance agency with locations in Great Bend and Pratt. Michael Carlson and Steve Lunsford bring many years of insurance and customer service experience to the agency. They offer home, renters, liability, auto and life insurance. They have several providers including Allstate, Progressive, Travelers and more, ensuring that they can get you the best deal for your individual situation.

**March 10th**

**PILOT CLUB OF GREAT BEND**

**Perkins Restaurant | 2920 10th Street**

For 97 years, Pilot International has been a service organization that makes a positive difference in their communities. Volunteers conduct programs, projects and fundraisers at the local level with a focus on brain safety, brain research, education, prevention and awareness. Pilot Club of Great Bend meetings are held on the first and third Tuesday of the month.

**March 17th**

**DROPPING 22 INC.**

**916 Williams Street**

Dropping 22 is a new non-profit 5013c organization which offers free mental health programming to Veterans, First Responders, those in the Military Community and their family members. Our name comes from the often quoted statistic that 22 Veterans take their own lives every day. While that statistic varies, we want to help drop that number because even just one suicide is too many. Dropping 22 aims to offer programming to address the unique culture needs of this population and their family members.

**March 24th**

**GREAT BEND COFFEE**

**2015 Lakin Avenue**

Great Bend Coffee has coffee, espresso drinks, sodas, and smoothies. They also offer around 64 sandwiches, pizzas wraps and salads. Their sandwiches are brick oven baked and served on our homemade breads with chips and a pickle. For breakfast, they have lots of amazing fresh baked goods along with breakfast burritos and biscuits and gravy.

**March 31st**

**WHEATLAND ELECTRIC**

**200 10th Street**

Delivering Energy for Life - Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc., was established in 1948 as a distribution and power cooperative in Kansas to provide a vitally needed service for the member consumers which they, as members, could not provide on an individual basis. Today, Wheatland Electric provides power to more than 21,000 customers in 14 southwest and south-central Kansas counties and three counties in Colorado. Together, with the help of their members, they're committed to building a better and stronger rural America.

**April 7th**

**- NO COFFEE -**

**ENJOY THE GREAT BEND FARM, RANCH & HEMP EXPO**

**Great Bend Expo III Complex**

The Great Bend Farm, Ranch & Hemp Expo will take place April 7-9th at the Great Bend Expo Complex just two miles West of Great Bend. Featuring nearly 400 exhibitors with indoor and outdoor exhibits, and no admission fees - with something for everyone, bring the family and check it out! Ribbon Cutting at 10:30.



3307 10th Street • Great Bend, KS 67530

**McDonald's**

is providing coffee for Chamber of Commerce coffees.



## GROW WORKFORCE SUMMIT

### EMPLOYER AND JOBSEEKER SUMMIT



**APRIL 20TH**  
WORKSHOPS

**APRIL 27TH**  
JOB FAIR

IN GREAT BEND, KANSAS

#### JOB SEEKERS

**FREE FOR JOB SEEKERS.  
REGISTER ONLINE.**

Discover the latest training programs, jobs, and career enhancement opportunities available in Barton County.

#### BUSINESS OWNERS

Learn how to transform and improve your workforce while understanding how the workforce climate is shifting. Concurrent sessions will offer valuable insight with actionable takeaways.

#### DIRECTORS & MANAGERS

Leverage the skills and experience from others all looking to build a large, resilient, well-skilled and well-trained talent pipeline.

## SUMMIT GOALS

To empower and support both job seekers and businesses. This will be accomplished through the sharing of best practices, resources, training, programs, and incentives available to build a talent pipeline reflective of the Barton County community, and to put people back to work.

## SPEAKERS & TOPICS

#### TOPICS

Hiring and Firing  
Change Management  
A New Age in Workforce  
& More

#### SPEAKERS

Dr. Nels Lindberg  
Twin City Rise

**CATERED BY  
BAKED BLESSINGS**



**GROW WORKFORCE**  
EMPLOYER AND JOBSEEKER SUMMIT





# Golden Belt Humane Society

PO Box 1653 / 151 S US Hwy 281

Great Bend, Ks 67530

Office 620-792-4297 / Fax 620-792-5595

Exciting changes continue to happen at the Golden Belt Humane Society. We have a great staff, a great Board of Directors, great volunteers and LOTS AND LOTS of dogs, cats, and occasionally other critters. We continue to work on updating shelter needs and making the facility more pet friendly. Things have come a long way in the last several years. Now, what we need is more members. Members are people who through their generosity help the GBHS take direct care of homeless or forgotten animals. When these animals enter through our doors they are loved and cared for until they find their forever homes. As a 501(c)(3) organization, your contributions to help the animals is tax deductible and every cent of your membership goes to the care of the animals. The continued support of people just like you will help us continue our mission of re-homing all these beautiful animals. Thank you for your time and consideration of renewing or becoming a member. May you always have wags and kisses in your life.

Sincerely,

The Animals, Staff and Board of Directors from Golden Belt Humane Society

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## Golden Belt Humane Society Membership Application/Renewal

Name\_\_\_\_\_ Phone\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

City\_\_\_\_\_ State\_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address\_\_\_\_\_

New Membership (   )      Renewal Membership (   )

Individual \$20 (   )    Family \$35 (   )    Business \$50 (   )  
Senior (Over 60 years of age) \$15 (   )    Student (under 18) \$15 (   )

Make checks payable to:

Golden Belt Humane Society  
PO Box 1653 Great Bend, KS 67530

# Great Bend High School

## Internship Program

2022-2023 School Year

### Internship Overview

An internship is an opportunity for a student to spend time with one or more employees at a business, non-profit organization, or government agency. The objective is to provide an opportunity to observe and gain hands-on experience in how business and industry work.

### Internships Help Business Partners

- Gain access to an expanded pool of qualified applicants.
- Invest early to get hard-to-find people “trained your way.”
- Reduce employee training costs.
- See future employees in action before hiring them, and hire those who fit your company culture and expectations.
- Establish closer working relationships with local schools and educators.
- Introduce students to their business and careers available within their company.
- Communicate to students how important it is to read, write, speak, listen, calculate, and think when it comes to workplace success.
- Be seen as an active and caring part of the community.
- Generate positive publicity and public relations for their company.
- Help students make better informed educational and career choices.
- Build morale among employees by giving them something positive in which to participate.
- Influence curricula taught in schools.
- Develop new projects with student assistance.
- Communicate required job-specific proficiencies to educational personnel.



### **Business Partner Application Deadlines:**

Fall 2022 due March 21<sup>st</sup>  
&  
Spring 2023 due Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>

### **Program Information:**

To learn more about the program, submit an application, or sign up to attend/request an informational meeting, click here:

[Internship Program Resources](#)

or

Scan the following:



For more information, please contact:

Lacy Wolters - Internship Coordinator - Great Bend High School

2027 Morton - Great Bend, KS 67530 / Email: [lacy.wolters@usd428.net](mailto:lacy.wolters@usd428.net) / Phone: 620-793-1521





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

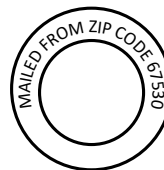
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Great Bend Chamber of Commerce  
1125 Williams Street  
Great Bend, KS 67530

- RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED -



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**March 12, 2022**

6pm  
Social Hour & Cash Bar  
7pm  
Dinner & Brief Program  
8-10pm  
Entertainment  
Galore! Casino  
Games & More!  
10:30pm Prize Drawings



Interested in Sponsoring  
a BCYP event or  
getting your company's  
young professionals  
involved?

Contact the Chamber for  
more information!  
[marketing@greatbend.org](mailto:marketing@greatbend.org)



SCAN ME

**YP** **BARTON COUNTY**  
*Young Professionals*  
LEAD. NETWORK. VOLUNTEER.

**First  
Kansas  
Bank**