



OUTLOOK BUSINESS JOURNAL

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE GREAT BEND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

CHAMBER AMBASSADORS PROMOTE COMMUNITY AN IMPORTANT ASPECT OF HOMETOWN PRIDE AND BUSINESS GROWTH

What is a Chamber Ambassador? To answer this question, let us first define ambassador, shall we?

[**ambassador**: noun / am·bass·suh·dor]

1. an accredited diplomat sent by a country as its official representative to a foreign country. "the French ambassador to Portugal"
2. a person who acts as a representative or promoter of a specified activity. "he is a good ambassador for the industry"

While we, as the Chamber, are not sending our Chamber Ambassadors to foreign countries such as Portugal (although they might enjoy that as a perk!), we do look to our ambassadors to be champions and community leaders who assist the Chamber in promoting our services to our member base of over 600. If you've ever attended a Chamber event such as our weekly Chamber Coffees, or an After-Hours, you've undoubtedly crossed paths with one of our Ambassadors, often times seen wearing a red shirt. They can be found at the Annual Gary Gore Memorial Golf Tournament, the Great Bend Farm & Ranch Expo, Ribbon Cuttings and more! They are sprinkled into everything we do here at the Chamber, our eyes and ears, listening to what it is our members need.

The Ambassadors' value to the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & E.D. is priceless. Operating with a staff of only 4, it would be impossible for us to call on each and every single member, but we know that if we don't, we aren't doing our jobs. The Ambassadors are deployed, tasked with calling on our members and making sure needs are being met. This group of volunteers allows the Chamber to cultivate business relationships and network with the area's most successful people.

What's in it for the Ambassador?

Ambassadors choose to be ambassadors for many different reasons. We like to think that being a Chamber Ambassador is both beneficial and rewarding to not only the Chamber, but to the Ambassador and their business as well. Many times, our Ambassadors are looking to get involved more with the community, looking for a way to make business connections and stand-out in the crowd.

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AMBASSADOR CLUB

2017 President:

Steve Swigart, Sunflower Bank

Vice President:

Cindy Brooke, Heartland Taxes & More

New Ambassadors in 2017:

Brett Behrends, Behrends Tax & Accounting

Traci Burns, Benefit Management

Megan Hammeke, Great Bend Rec

Dale MacKinney, First Assembly of God

Sonya Rein, 2B Organized of Central Kansas

Lexie Schneider, The Beauty Bar

Dave Storjohann, Kentucky Fried Chicken

Deanna Vannoster, Shelter Insurance

Continuing their Service

Sarah Adams, Nex-Tech

Aaron Andrews, MPIRE Realty

Amanda Baxter, MPIRE Properties

Barry Bowers, Spectrum CPA Partners

Jake Deutsch, Great Bend Co-op

Mike Fortkamp, Dayton Security

Amy Habiger, Yours Truly Gifts & Events

Dale Hogg, Great Bend Tribune

Melinda Kurth, Thrivent Financial

Gaila Demel, United Way of Central Kansas

Shelly Peacock, TCI Answering Service

Cole Reif, Eagle Radio

Pete Schartz, America State Bank & Trust

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CHAMBER AMBASSADORS

Continued from Page 1

Being a Chamber Ambassador provides them with opportunities to meet with new people and exchange conversations and ideas that might not have taken place otherwise. Their visibility in the community helps to propel their business and personal relationships far into the future.

Let's hear from a couple of our Ambassador on their "Why's."

"The nice thing about being a Chamber Ambassador are the connections you form. Not only are you able to provide a service to your community by being a representative and spread the positive things the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce has to offer, but you also take away a better outlook on the area. As an Ambassador, I have met other professionals and community members that provide me a better understanding on how things work, issues they face, who to contact if I need a specific service, etc. I feel much more involved and knowledgeable about my city because of my time with the Chamber Ambassador program." **Cole Reif, Eagle Radio**

"Being a Chamber Ambassador has been a great way for me to build relationships, foster networking within the business community and the ability to volunteer and present a positive, professional involvement in promoting the Chamber and its members has been very special and beneficial to me," **Cindy Brook, Heartland Taxes & More, 2017 Ambassador Vice President.**

If you're interested in being a future Ambassador, or nominating someone, contact Megan Barfield at the Chamber: 620-792-2401. Nominations and voting are held annually with newly elected Ambassadors starting every January and entering into a 3-year term.



Catholic Charities Now Offers Free Counseling

No one needs to go through life's most difficult challenges alone. Catholic Charities of Southwest Kansas is offering free professional counseling services in Dodge City, Garden City and Great Bend for adults, children, families and seniors.

Professional counseling can help guide you as you work through life's most challenging problems including couples who are seeking premarital and marriage counseling to strengthen relationships; individuals who have experienced loss, trauma, or life changes; families seeking a better way to communicate; youth dealing with peer pressure or bullying; parents who need guidance raising children with behavioral issues; individuals struggling with anger, anxiety, or addiction; families adjusting to separation or divorce; people who feel sad, alone or stuck; adults and youth coping with life's daily stresses; caregivers supporting mentally ill and physically challenged loved ones; and many other life-challenging events.

Counseling services are available for all children, families, singles and couples regardless of race, religion or socioeconomic status. Contact Amy Falcon at 620-227-1590 or afalcon@CatholicCharitiesSWKS.org for more information and to schedule an appointment.



Catholic Charities
of Southwest Kansas

GBCF Increases Goal for Giving Tuesday Donors

As a Giving Tuesday champion, Golden Belt Community Foundation inspires donations from all ages and gifts of any amount to reach our goal of 1,000 donors this year. Your gift stays right here helping local charities with long-term funding needs. GBCF stands strong behind the nonprofits that serve our area. Endowments provide a permanent source of continual funding from invested capital, meaning the gift you give today leaves a legacy forever.

New for 2017, every elementary school in Barton, Pawnee, Rush, and Stafford counties that participate in our giving event is eligible for a \$500 classroom mini grant. This is an opportunity for kids and their families to participate in the generosity of the season. GBCF will award one \$500 grant to every elementary school that participates, going to the classroom that donates the most dollars on Giving Tuesday.



Local Giving Locations

Giving Tuesday is Tuesday, November 28th. The Foundation board and staff will host giving sites in our service area on this day. Gifts can be made online, by mail, or in person at any of the following locations: **Golden Belt Community Foundation** – 1307 Williams St. in Great Bend from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., **Hoisington Chamber of Commerce** – 123 N. Main St. from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., **Larned Chamber of Commerce** – 502 Broadway Ave. from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., **E-Z Mart** – 1409 Main St. in La Crosse from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., **Courthouse Annex** – 210 E. 3rd St. in St. John from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Local Match

There is \$25,000+ in matching funds awarded in proportion to the total amount raised during the entire month of November.

Local Spirit

Golden Belt Community Foundation is making spirits bright with our come and go celebration on Giving Tuesday, from 5 – 7 p.m., on November 28th at Great Bend Coffee – 2015 Lakin Ave, in Great Bend. Holiday spirits and hors d'oeuvres will be served in celebration of the giving season.

Donations may be made online at www.goldenbeltcf.org where you can write in the endowment fund(s) you wish to support. Gifts can be made in-person or mailed to the foundation to qualify for Giving Tuesday at 1307 Williams St.; P.O. Box 1911; Great Bend, KS 67530. Please make checks payable to GBCF.

Dominican Sisters Mission Bazaar November 11th

The Dominican Sisters of Peace in Great Bend will host their Annual Mission Benefit Bazaar on Saturday, November 11, 2017, from 7:00 am to 2:00 pm at 3600 Broadway in Great Bend, Kansas. The morning begins with the booths offering hundreds of handcrafted and homemade items including breads, jellies, some candies; tea towels, toys, kitchen items, Christmas ornaments and more.

Mid-morning, refreshments will be available for purchase including cinnamon rolls & beverages, for lunch, soup and pie will be available for purchase.

The first of two drawings will be held at 2:00 p.m., featuring the diamond and ruby earrings and pendant. The second drawing has 20 prizes ranging from gift cards and beef quarters to homemade breads, theme baskets, tea towels and a silent auction.

The Sisters are confident that there is something in the bazaar you just cannot live without! And you might even win more than one prize in the drawing! You're invited to spend the day with the Dominican Sisters and many of your friends. For more information call 620-792-1232.

Outlook Business Journal
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GREAT BEND
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
& ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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Ellinwood Hospital Foundation to Host Gala

Following years of tradition, the Ellinwood Hospital Foundation is reaching out to the community at Christmas-time. Since 1987, the Foundation has sent a letter to community members and donors, relaying the good works of the Foundation and asking for support.

This year, the Foundation is also asking for support through a fun event: the Christmas Gala, a dinner and auction fundraiser. The Christmas Gala will take place on Sunday, December 3, beginning at 5:30pm, at St. Joseph Parish Center, Ellinwood. It will be the ending event for Ellinwood's Christkindlmarket, immediately following the Living Nativity and Christmas Tree Lighting at Wolf Park.

At 5:30pm, the doors will open, and the silent auction will begin. A dinner of honey pecan chicken or chopped beef steak and gravy will start at 7:00pm. The silent auction ends and live auction begins at 8:00pm, following a short program. Raffles will also be available. Items up for auction include gift certificates, sporting goods, holiday and home décor, sports and art tickets, and more.

Tickets are \$20, and include dinner and refreshments. Only 200 tickets are available, and are on sale at Ellinwood Hospital and Clinic front offices, the Foundation office, Foundation board members, or online at <https://www.ellinwooddistricthospital.org/christmasgala>. For questions, or to reserve tickets over the phone, call 620-564-2548.



United Way Update - Reality U, Upcoming Events

United Way of Central Kansas hosted their 2nd Reality U event at Great Bend Middle School on October 18th. Thanks to the support of our sponsors; Adams, Brown Beran & Ball, Benefit Management LLC, Bryant Funeral Home, City of Great Bend, Credit Union of America, Farmers Bank & Trust, First Kansas Bank, Marmie's, Nex-Tech Wireless, Wheatland Electric and lunch provided by the Great Bend Middle School Booster Club and more than 50 community volunteers, this event was again a huge success. Students got the opportunity to glimpse into the reality that is adulthood and gained an appreciation for their parents that they may not have had before. Without the organization of our Reality U committee which consisted of Sheryl Neeland, Nikki Omenski, Julie Bugner-Smith, and Tanya Staats we would not have been able to bring this event to more students in Great Bend. This event is being expanded to our other communities in January.



In November, there are numerous ways that you can support United Way. Dine United is an opportunity to dine at local restaurants with a portion of the proceeds benefiting UWCK. November's schedule includes My Town 2 Go on any Thursday (9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th). Great Bend Coffee will be cooking up an amazing breakfast or lunch specials including quiches & rolls, or calzones, sandwiches, and soups on November 9th. Dine for Dolly at Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakburgers on November 14th will support the continuation of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in Barton & Pawnee Counties.

Another opportunity for you to support UWCK without a big hit to your pocketbook is to Dress Down the Town in mid November. Businesses are encouraged to participate in this event, allowing employees the opportunity to wear jeans to work for a \$1 donation to UWCK. Employees also gain a chance to win a pair of jeans from The Buckle. Every dollar you donate will give you another chance to win. Contact UWCK to get your business signed up today!

If you aren't able to support United Way in one of our events, you can mail your tax-deductible donations to UWCK, 1125 Williams, Great Bend, KS 67530 or visit our website, uwck.org to donate online.



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HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS IN NOVEMBER

- 1... Chamber Coffee: Angels Care Home Health, Spray-Holt Family Board Room, 1125 Williams St. @ 9 a.m.
- 4... SRCA Awards Banquet, Location TBD
- 4... Explore Great Bend - Holiday Open Houses, Participating Retailers across Great Bend
- 7... Election Day, Vote at Your Polling Location, 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.
- 8... "Ask the Experts" Technology Roundtable, Spray-Holt Family Boardroom, 1125 Williams St. @ 12 p.m.
- 9... Chamber Coffee: TCI Answering Service, 901 E 10th St @ 9 a.m.
- 9... Barton County Association of Churches Annual Soup Supper, Prince of Peace Parish Center, 4103 Broadway @ 4:30 p.m.
- 9-11... Funny Money, Crest Theater, 1905 Lakin Ave., @ 7:30 p.m.
- 10... BCYP Networking Mixer, hosted by Stueder Contractors, 3410 10th St, from 6-8 p.m.
- 11... Caught Ya Exploring Day! Participating Retailers across Great Bend
- 11... Dominican Sisters Annual Mission Benefit Bazaar, 3600 Broadway Ave. @ 7 a.m.
- 12... Funny Money, Crest Theater, 1905 Lakin Ave., @ 2 p.m.
- 13... Touched by Cancer Support Group, Heartland Cancer Center, 204 Cleveland St. @ 4p.m.
- 14... Bricks & Mortar Meets Click & Order, Spray-Holt Family Board Room, 1125 Williams St. @ 8 a.m.
- 14... Dine for Dolly, Freddy's Frozen Custard, 3008 10th St @ 10:30 a.m
- 15... "Dress Down the Town" Jeans Day Benefitting United Way of Central Kansas
- 16... USD 428 Education Foundation Dinner/Auction, Great Bend Event Center, 3111 10th St. @ 6:30 p.m.
- 16... Chamber Coffee: Ellinwood Hospital Foundation, Ellinwood Hospital & Clinic, 605 N Main, Ellinwood @ 9 a.m.
- 18... Explore Great Bend: Selfie Saturday! Participating Retailers Across Great Bend
- 20... Ribbon Cutting at The Reserves of Trail Ridge, 811 Grant St. @ 10:30 a.m.
- 21... Central Kansas Partnership Meeting, Barton County Health Department, 1300 Kansas Ave @ 11 a.m.
- 24... Explore Great Bend: Black Friday! Participating Retailers across Great Bend
- 25... Explore Great Bend: Small Business Saturday! Participating Retailers across Great Bend
- 25... 12th Annual Home for the Holidays Parade, Downtown Great Bend Jack Kilby Square, @ 5:30 p.m.
- 27... BCHS: Monthly Program Meeting, Barton County Historical Society, 85 S. Highway 281 @ 7:30 p.m.
- 28... Giving Tuesday Celebration hosted by the Golden Belt Community Foundation, Great Bend Coffee, 2015 Lakin Ave @ 5 p.m.
- 30... Chamber Coffee: Landmark National Bank, 1623 Main St., @ 9 a.m.

Reoccurring Events:

- Shafer Gallery presents the Barton County Arts Council Friends and Acquaintances Art Festival September 29, 2017 - November 4, 2017
- Dine United, percentage of your order benefits UWCK, MyTownToGo Nov. 9, 16 & 23 | Great Bend Coffee Company, Nov. 9
- Great Bend City Council Meetings, 1st & 3rd Mondays, City Hall, 1209 Williams St. @ 7:30 p.m.
- Barton County Commission Meetings, Every Monday, Barton County Courthouse, 1400 Main Rm. 106, 9 a.m.
- GBCF's Giving Tuesday, November 7, 2017 - November 28, 2017, Golden Belt Community Foundation, 1307 Williams St.



Farmers Bank Lights Up Children's Lives

Help celebrate the 26th year that Barton County has generously supported this Light Up a Child's Christmas community project, making the season brighter for children in need and their families. The public is invited to stop by either Farmers Bank and Trust location beginning November 20th, to select a child with a personalized wish-list for toys, clothes and necessities. Donate or adopt a child and please return gifts by December 6th. Make a difference in a child's life this holiday season with your gift of caring and Light Up a Child's Life!

Waters True Value Donates Storage Building to SDS

Waters True Value recently donated a 10-foot-by-16-foot STURDI-BILT structure (retail price \$3,300) to Sunflower Diversified Services, which is now located toward the rear of Sunflower's 1521 K-96 facility.

"As a non-profit agency, Sunflower supports those who need a little extra help in their everyday lives," Store Manager Michael Mayhill said. "Waters shares the same values. Helping people is really what we both do day in and day out."





From Start-Up to Sensation

On December 31, 2009, Jan Peters, President/CEO of the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development, spent her New Year’s Eve on the phone with Howard Bloxam and Jeff Baikie, co-owners of Redbarn Pet Products. As the clock wound down towards midnight, she paused and asked, “So it’s official?” Jeff and Howard looked at each other and nodded. “It’s a deal,” Jeff replied, “We’re moving to Great Bend.”

The Great Bend Packing Plant that Jeff and Howard purchased on December 31st closed in July of 2009 after employing 375 people for 27 years. As manufacturers of premium, natural pet products, Redbarn searched for a human-grade plant for years before finding the gem of Great Bend. As Howard explained, “We were looking for a new home for Redbarn. For us, it wasn’t just the facilities at the plant or the fantastic wastewater treatment center; we loved the people. Jeff and I are both from small towns in Canada, and Great Bend felt very familiar to us.” He paused, smiling, then added: “Plus, you can’t beat the weather.”

Redbarn opened operations in April of 2010 with just ten employees who’d relocated from Long Beach, CA. Now, they’re a top 10 employer in Great Bend with over 275 employees across a variety of departments. Redbarn manufactures over 200 unique products, with every product checked for quality and safety in Great Bend before shipping to distribution centers or international partners in Canada, Dubai, and Guatemala.

It’s not just international growth that helped Redbarn grow, but domestic business as well. Since 2010, the pet industry grew dramatically. Pet ownership in the U.S. stands at 68%, which means that 84.6 million households own a pet. In 2010, the American Pet Products Association estimated that the total spending on pets topped 48 billion. Just six years later, that figure grew to 66 billion for the 2016 annual year. Much of the industry growth is driven by increased consumer desire for natural and premium pet products, like the bully sticks, food and natural chews that Redbarn manufactures. According to Jeff, “it was vital to us to find a home in America’s heartland. The proximity of Great Bend and Kansas to the raw materials, like the beef and wheat we need for our products, is a huge reason why we have been so successful since we moved.”

In the eight years since Redbarn Pet Products called Great Bend home, the business has signed new contracts with their primary partners like Petco and Petsmart. They’re also ardent supporters of independent businesses, supplying products to over 4,500 independent pet stores across the country. Locally, Redbarn Products can be purchased at the Heart of Kansas store in Great Bend.

In the past ten years, Great Bend added 1,300 jobs, totaling a 170 million dollar investment in the community. As a family-owned company, Redbarn is proud to be a part of that growth. Since moving into the plant, they’ve invested heavily in the facilities. To better keep up with demand, Redbarn added a brand-new 35,000 square foot warehouse to hold finished products.



As Patrick Serna, Plant Superintendent, said, “When we were looking at the plans, I never thought we’d be able to fill it. I walk down the full aisles every day and can’t believe how much we’ve grown.” In 2016, Redbarn invested over 4 million dollars into their Great Bend plant, working on projects like the installation of a new roof, ammonia system and new 4000 square foot freezer. Plant Manager, Kevin Corbett remarked that “We always feel that we still have a lot of work to do in our plant, but we are making great progress every day thanks to the team we have assembled here in Great Bend. I’m proud of all that we’ve invested into our facilities to make them the best in the business.” Redbarn also built a new retained sample building and invested in new Neogen in-house lab testing that allowed the Quality Assurance department to reduce test times on things like yeast and mold from 5 days to 24 hours and reduce salmonella testing time from 48 hours to 24 hours. “We’ve installed, renovated and added these improvements to our plants because we don’t cut corners. Jeff and I believe that there is a right way to do business and that involves making safe products in a safe environment for our employees”, added Howard.

The ‘right’ way to do business extends beyond Redbarn’s growth as a company. Employees take being a family-owned company to heart every day. “You’re part of a family at Redbarn. We take that seriously”, said Patrick. With 25 employees located at the company headquarters in Long Beach, CA, and an additional 15 members of the sales force distributed nationally, the bulk of the Redbarn “family” calls Great Bend and the surrounding area home. As Patrick added, “I moved to Great Bend in 2010 for Redbarn. Just like my coworkers, this community is my family and my home. Living in a family-oriented community like Great Bend brought me closer to my daughters and I’m forever grateful for that.”

At the Great Bend plant, there are 275 employees spanning across a variety of departments. Shipping, Purchasing, and Product Development are all headquartered in Great Bend, along with the bulk of the company’s production workforce. “We think the diversity of the skillsets and employees at our Great Bend plant enable us to think creatively as a company,” remarked Lucy Salermo, Human Resources Manager. She added, “Not many people know that all of the jobs at our plant start above minimum wage. We stay competitive to make sure that we’re finding and retaining the best people for our ‘family’. Our people are worth the investment.” Some Redbarn ‘family’ traditions span back to the company’s founding, twenty years ago. Every Thanksgiving, all Redbarn employees get a gift card redeemable for a holiday Turkey or Ham. They sponsor 4th of July Barbeques, Halloween costume contests and throw a plant-wide Christmas party every year where they give out Chamber of Commerce gift cards. As Jeff remarked, “We are forever grateful to the employees that help us achieve our goals every day. They empower us to grow every day.” The ‘family’ spirit even extends to the relationship Redbarn developed with the Golden Belt Humane Society in Great Bend. Since Redbarn relocated to Great Bend, they’ve donated treats and food, in addition to helping sponsor community events like the annual Harvest parade with Golden Belt.

As the company looks toward the future, they are excited about the changes coming to Great Bend. They recently announced pet industry veteran, Jeff Sutherland, as the new President of Redbarn. The former President of the Breeder’s Choice Pet Food program at Central Pet Supply and Executive Vice President of Sales and Marketing for Animal Supply Company, Jeff has over 30 years of experience helping companies in the pet industry thrive. “I am so excited to work with such a respected company.” said Jeff Sutherland, before adding, “Redbarn’s position in the marketplace as a leading treat and chew manufacturer is especially exciting, as there are so many opportunities to grow, expand our product offerings and branch out into new categories.” With the emphasis on growth and keeping their pipeline full of new and innovative products, Redbarn seems set for a bold future in Great Bend.



“ I moved to Great Bend in 2010 for Redbarn. Just like my coworkers, this community is my family and my home. Living in a family-oriented community like Great Bend brought me closer to my daughters and I’m forever grateful for that. ”



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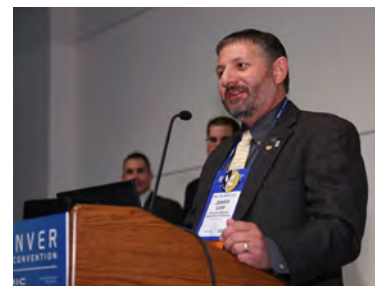
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Farmers Mutual CEO, Lear Honored Nationally

Farmers Mutual Insurance Company (FMI), Ellinwood, Kansas is pleased to announce that Chief Executive Officer, Justin Lear, PFMM has received the 2017 National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies (NAMIC) Professional Farm Mutual Manager of the Year Award. One Professional Farm Mutual Manager (PFMM) of the Year Award is given annually to an individual in recognition of their outstanding leadership and many accomplishments in the service to NAMIC as well as the Mutual Insurance Industry. The PFMM of the Year Award recognizes the recipient's high-level performance in marketing, administrative, and financial management within their company and the industry. This Award is the highest award given by the Farm Mutual Conference of NAMIC which represents the single state or regional member companies of NAMIC that have roots in rural risk coverage through mutual insurance protection. Justin received this NAMIC PFMM of the Year Award at the 122nd Annual Convention of NAMIC in Denver, Colorado on September 25th.



Justin has served FMI since 2007, as CEO since February 2010. Since that time he has led initiatives of the company as created with the Board of Directors and completed by efforts of staff in a successful recovery phase due to the effects of severe storm losses in prior periods. Within Justin's tenure FMI has returned to being a viable company successfully serving a niche market of residential property. FMI is now poised to open new lines of business for other niche markets to serve Kansans' insurance needs with a focus on the rural landscape of Kansas.

Justin has served NAMIC in various capacities in the past, most notably in a term as Chairman of the NAMIC Farm Mutual Conference Board of Directors. Likewise, he serves the state association, Kansas Association of Property Casualty Insurance Companies (KAPCIC) as the FMI representative to the KAPCIC Board of Directors, and as a past President of the association. He has also served NAMIC and KAPCIC, as well as the Kansas Professional Insurance Agents (PIA), in various committee appointments throughout the years. Prior to joining FMI in 2007, Justin served Polk County Mutual Insurance Company in Bolivar, Missouri as General Manager and Director. While in Missouri he was also actively engaged in NAMIC, the Missouri Association of Mutual Insurance Companies, and the insurance industry.

Demel Named SDS Case Management Director

In her previous position at Sunflower Diversified Services, Brandi Demel, R.N., concentrated on providing medical services to the non-profit agency's clients.

Today, she is caring for even more people as they strive for higher levels of independence at work and at home. Demel is the new director of case management at Sunflower; previously, she served for almost five years as medical services coordinator.



"I now have the opportunity to provide different types of services to a wider range of people," Demel said. "We evaluate each person's status in virtually every aspect of their lives, and then set goals in collaboration with clients and their families."

"I want to educate families about how they can help prepare their children for school and adulthood," she added. "For example, we can work with parents and schools on individual education plans. We advocate for families to ensure special-needs students get what they need to be successful."

Sunflower serves infants, toddlers and adults with developmental disabilities.

Touched by the Local Beautification Committee

The year was 1996. Al Silverstein was President of the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce. Wishing to clean up and beautify the community, Mr. Silverstein recruited Gail Lupton and Dortha Keenan and with that, the Chamber's Beautification Committee was born.

Fast forward seven years, and the first project finally came to fruition – the Broadway Islands. The Island project spans a distance of nine city blocks with new grass and trees, a sprinkler system and electricity. The Broadway Islands were gifted back to the City of Great Bend, who maintains them still today.

20+ years later, and the six Beautification Committee members are still hard at work, volunteering countless hours to make Great Bend a beautiful place to live. You don't have to drive far to find one of their many flower beds or landscaping plots.

Look for these places touched by the Beautification Committee, the next time you're driving around town:

- Great Bend Post Office landscaping
- Main Street Flower Pots – 13 flower pots downtown with seasonal planting, done by Northview Nursery, and fixtures that change throughout the year
- Great Bend Public Library – trees and flower beds at the corners of the parking lot, statues and flowers along building (shared effort with Friends of the Library), underground watering system for entire lawn and drip systems
- Great Bend Municipal Airport – terminal remodel, landscaping
- Barton County Sheriff's Office – flower gardens
- Barton County Courthouse – round circle of lilies on the North side
- 17th Street Tennis Courts – flower gardens and landscaping

Members of the Beautification Committee include Linda Dougherty (Chair), Deon Lupton, Carol Schremmer, Vi Hiss, June Hillman and Dorothy Piland. If you see these ladies, please thank them for all they do for YOUR community!

If you are interested in joining the Beautification Committee and beautifying your community, please call Linda Dougherty at (620) 793-9055.



Country Place Announces Resident Nurse, Jessi Baze

Country Place Senior Living announces that Jessi Baze, LPN, has transitioned to the position of Resident Nurse/Care Coordinator. Mrs. Baze has worked for Country Place part-time since June 2016.

Missy Pflughoeft, Country Place Senior Living and Memory Care Director says of the transition, "Jessi's leadership will complement the wonderful team of caring nurses taking care of our residents"

Baze is a Hoisington native and Hoisington High School graduate. She earned her nursing degree from Barton Community College. Jessi's nursing career includes work at Great Bend Regional Hospital and Clara Barton Hospital as a Surgical Technician and The Center for Counseling as Nurse Care Coordinator.

RSVP Hosts Free Veterans Appreciation Concert

RSVP of Central Kansas will host its first-ever Veterans Appreciation Concert Friday, Nov. 10. The event will take place at 7 p.m. in the Great Bend City Auditorium, 1214 Stone St.

"Area veterans, active service men and women and the general public are invited to attend this free concert," said Kandi Wolf, volunteer coordinator for RSVP/Volunteers in Action and event coordinator.

Golden Plains Quilts of Valor will be featured along with several local musicians and performers. RSVP is sponsored by Barton Community College and a partner agency of the United Way. It works to help keep seniors active in the community through volunteering, as well as helping to partner volunteers with several local agencies.

RSVP



SDS Pancake Feed Serves Record Number

The Sunflower Diversified Services pancake feed has long been a popular annual event. But this year it set a record with 611 people served at the all-you-can-eat, pancake-and-sausage dinner. There were 575 participants served last year.

Sunflower, a non-profit agency, serves infants, toddlers and adults with developmental disabilities and delays in Barton, Pawnee, Rice, Rush and Stafford counties. Sunflower is in its 51st year of serving families.



SANTA'S WORKSHOP

Monday, December 4th
6:00-8:00 PM
City Auditorium

ENTERTAINMENT, CRAFTS, SANTA, & LOTS OF HOLIDAY FUN!

Great Bend Recreation Commission
620.793.3755
greatbendrec.net



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Austin Coyan, ABBB Earns CFE Designation

The certified public accounting firm of Adams, Brown, Beran & Ball, Chartered (ABBB) is pleased to announce that Austin Coyan, CPA, senior staff accountant, recently obtained his license as a Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE). As stated on the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners website, "The Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE) credential denotes proven expertise in fraud prevention, detection and deterrence. CFEs are trained to identify the warning signs and red flags that indicate evidence of fraud and fraud risk. CFEs around the world help protect the global economy by uncovering fraud and implementing processes to prevent fraud from occurring in the first place."



"Congratulations to Austin for earning this new designation," said Brian Staats, CPA, CGMA, managing partner of ABBB. "We look forward to the positive contributions this designation will allow him to make for clients as he continues to develop his career."

Local Companies Announce Awards & Promotions

Marmies Congratulates James Vaughn

Marmie Ford Lincoln would like to congratulate their Business Manager, James Vaughn, on his recent National Certification course through the Association of Finance and Insurance Professionals. Vaughn is now a Certified Professional in Financial Services (CPFS).



James Vaughn

Scott Donovan Receives KBA Award

Congratulations are in order for Scott Donovan who was recently awarded the "Sonny Slater" award from the Kansas Association of Broadcasters for his community involvement. The award recognizes a broadcaster who is not an owner or general manager for service to his or her station and community. If there is a big community event in Great Bend, or a fundraiser to help with an important cause, you'll often find Donovan a big part of it either as the emcee, an organizer, or broadcasting live for the radio station. This honor is well deserved for the Great Bend native who started his radio career in 1983.



Scott Donovan

Kuhlman Celebrates 24 Years with Pampered Chef

Debbie Kuhlman, local Pampered Chef Consultant, has been helping people gather at the table for 24 years! She celebrated this milestone anniversary on October 14th. Debbie brings her passion for cooking, quality kitchen & entertaining products, and more to our community through her role as an independent Pampered Chef consultant. Congratulations, Debbie.



Debbie Kuhlman

ABBB Announces New Staff Accountant, Edwards

The certified public accounting firm of Adams, Brown, Beran & Ball, Chartered (ABBB) is pleased to announce the addition of Jennifer Edwards to their professional team. She interned with the firm in 2014 and will now serve as a staff accountant. Edwards graduated from Sterling College in 2015 with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting. Edwards is a QuickBooks Online ProAdvisor®. She currently resides in Ellinwood with her husband, Matt.



Jenni Edwards

Ribbon Cuttings - Exciting Things Happening!

MIND SCULPT GAMES CELEBRATES STORE GRAND OPENING IN DOWNTOWN

On Wednesday, October 4th, the Chamber officially welcomed Mind Sculpt Games as a new member with a Ribbon Cutting. Mind Sculpt Games has a business goal of not only providing safe and fun entertainment in the area, but also in building a culture where families use games to help build fluency in reading and math. "Our son, Eli, learned to multiply because he was so excited about the Mew-Two X-Ball ability on a Pokemon card. As parents, a big part of our plan in enriching our children's education is to play games as a family. Eli and I have played a lot of Pokemon games, which is great because he is practicing his reading and doing quick math the whole time" said Daniel, co-owner and father of two. Daniel and Darcy Leach invite the public to come and explore all there is inside their new store, located at 1401 Main St., Great Bend. Their hours are Monday – Friday, 4 – 9p.m. and Saturdays, Noon – 6p.m. Like them on Facebook.



LITTLE FREE LIBRARY AT GREAT BEND BRIT SPAUGH ZOO CREATED BY FCUC

On Thursday, October 12th, we helped celebrate the installation of a newly registered "Little Free Library" in front of the Great Bend-Brit Spaugh Zoo! The birdhouse themed library was built by First Congregational United Church of Christ and Jack June, and decorated by local artist Robert Joy. This allows anyone to come and borrow a book at any time, and readers are encouraged to leave books for other people as well. To learn more about building your own "Little Free Library," visit www.littlefreelibrary.org.



GREAT BEND

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Welcome to Our NEW Chamber Members

P1 GROUP

Ryan Mitchell - Area Rep
2333 S. West Street
Wichita, KS 67213
www.p1group.com

Plumbing, Heating and Air Conditioning

LAYNE & BARBARA SHIRK

Great Bend, KS 67530
Retired

ARTISAN SOAPS

Rebecca Ford - Owner
2914 Broadway Avenue
Great Bend, KS 67530
(620) 282 - 8331
info@artisansoaps.org
www.artisansoaps.org
Gift Shop

Comfort Pro Expands to Larned

Comfort Pro, the area's largest plumbing and HVAC contractor, opened the doors on their new showroom located in Larned, Kansas on October 1st. Located at 301 W. 14th Street, the new facility has been completely renovated to make room for new staff and new services.

The locally owned company will host a Chamber Coffee Hour and Ribbon Cutting ceremony on Thursday, November 2nd at 9:30 a.m. The event is open to the public, and will include free breakfast and door prize drawings along with tours of the facility. Learn more by visiting the Comfort Pro facebook page.

Comfort Pro Inc.

Save the Date!

February 17, 2018

Great Bend Events Center

96TH ANNUAL BANQUET
GREAT BEND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

celebrating

the ART of COMMUNITY

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Natalie Williams, PA, Pulmonology

ELLINWOOD:

Ellinwood Medical Clinic / 611 N. Main
Dr. Lindsay Nordwald, OBGYN

HOISINGTON:

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

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CHAMBER COFFEE SCHEDULE

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

November 2, 2017
ANGELS CARE HOME HEALTH
Spray Holt Family Board Room
1125 Williams Street in Great Bend

Angels Care Home Health is the premier provider of home health services in the community. We provide skilled nursing care, restorative therapy and medical social services to patients in their homes or wherever they reside, including assisted living facilities and retirement communities. Medicare covers all services at 100% for those who qualify.

November 9, 2017
TELE-COMMUNICATIONS, INC (TCI)
901 E. 10th Street in Great Bend

TCI is a 24/7/365 Answering Service that provides customer service to commercial accounts all over the United States. Never miss a call with TCI on your team!

November 16, 2017
ELLINWOOD HOSPITAL FOUNDATION
601 N Main Street in Ellinwood

Ellinwood Hospital Foundation is a non-profit, philanthropic organization dedicated to the improvement of healthcare, through the services of Ellinwood Hospital and Clinic and its cooperating organizations. Learn more about the exciting new services offered in Ellinwood, and see the facility improvements being made!

November 23, 2017
HAPPY THANKSGIVING - NO CHAMBER COFFEE

November 30, 2017
LANDMARK NATIONAL BANK
1623 Main Street in Great Bend

Whether you are purchasing your first home, have money to invest, have questions about safeguarding your identity, or you are seeking to expand your business, Landmark National Bank is a community bank with knowledgeable associates in 29 locations across Kansas ready to serve you with a complete suite of financial services.



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