

# OUTLOOK

**GREAT BEND**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## business journal **ONLINE**

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### Addressing the workforce shortage...



It is no secret that today's labor pool is slim, and the market is competitive. The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce has been working to help address the workforce shortage on many fronts with multiple partners. It's hard to pinpoint one area to focus our efforts, but we have identified a few strategies to help our member base and invest in our community: **Connecting with Youth, Central Kansas Jobs, Education on Workforce Resources.**

#### Central Kansas Jobs

Did you know the Great Bend Chamber administers this job site? With a fresh new look, CKJobs allows members to post their jobs for free, view resumes, and more. Our goal is to help you elevate your job posting with the ability to create a landing page for your business that allows for posted videos. Adding a video to your job posting sets you apart and allows the job seeker to have a look inside your business.

More improvements are coming 2022 to illustrate the "why's." WHY people relocate to Great Bend. WHY people choose to raise a family in Great Bend. WHY someone has decided to stay in Great Bend.

If you have an opening, post it! Post your jobs to CentralKansasJobs ([centralkansasjobs.com](https://centralkansasjobs.com)), and don't forget to also post to KansasWorks (<https://www.kansasworks.com/search/jobs>).

#### Education on Workforce Resources

Recruitment Incentives - Job shadow/Apprenticeship/ Internship Programs - Workforce system partners

Earlier in the Fall, we hosted national speaker Mike Henke for a workforce roundtable that focused on how to attract and retain the workforce of the next 10 years. The workforce looks different and areas like workplace culture, succession planning, leadership training, and employee "buy in" are at the top of most job seeker's lists.

Our next roundtable is also on workforce and scheduled for November 17th. We are bringing local and state workforce resources directly to you. Register now for this 2-hour workshop featuring Tucky Allen and Laura Patzner (Kansas WorkforceONE), Sara Hayden (Great Bend Economic Development) and Megan Barfield (Great Bend Chamber of Commerce). [Learn more here.](#)

#### Connecting with Youth

##### Made in GBK Campaign

- 18 tours
- 10 stops
- 175 students from GBHS and BCC
- Watch for MORE tours in 2022 for the business community to attend!



##### Building Bridges

In partnership with Great Bend High School and Kansas WorkforceONE, this event has a goal of strengthening connections between educators, students, teachers, and the business community.

- 24 businesses represented
- 200+ students and parents
- Topics addressed:
  - How do we work together to offer Work Based Learning experiences (apprenticeships/ internships/job shadows) to our students?
  - How do we partner together to provide essential skills training and continued practice to our students?

#### IN THIS ISSUE:

FEATURED BUSINESS



RIBBON CUTTINGS



NEW MEMBERS



CALENDAR



COFFEE SCHEDULE



FEATURED AMBASSADOR



NEW HIRES & PROMOTIONS





**Barton County Young Professionals annual Party with a Purpose event on December 1st, is quickly approaching. Interested in participating, or have a young professional interested? Learn more by clicking the picture, link will take you to the Facebook event.**

## ***16th Annual Chamber Golf Tournament considered a success***

On September 24th, 22 teams of golfers took to the greens at Lake Barton Golf Club for the 16th Annual Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament. Tournament Results:

### **First Flight**

1. Nex-Tech: Roy Inlow, Darren Walters, Allen Lang, Brian Meder
2. Protective

Equipment Testing: Shawndra Harbaugh, Mike Harbaugh, Tom Harbaugh, April Harbaugh

3. Motorola Solutions: Aaron Corcoran, Jessica Sullivan, Shelly Peacock, Charise Oelger

### **Championship Flight**

1. Moeder Plumbing Heating & Air, Inc.: Alan Moeder, Kenny Alfes, Ryan Alfes, Jeremy Long

2. Bauer, Pike, Bauer, Wary & Carroll: Logan Garrett, Rob Bauer, Khriston, Todd Armatys

3. MPIRE Realty Group, LLC: Aaron Andrews, Martin Cairney, Jason Mayers, and Mac Holman

**2021 TOURNAMENT PICTURES**



## **Barton carpentry program now accepting students**

Barton's accelerated Carpentry Certificate Program is set to enroll students with classes starting in the spring.

The program can be completed in one semester. It also features block-scheduling, which allows students to continue to work and make money while they go through the program. More information is available at [carpentry.bartonccc.edu](http://carpentry.bartonccc.edu).

The program is designed to provide hands-on experience from Instructor Matt Mazouch who has extensive experience in the field as well as in the classroom.

"Carpentry is a great program

**BARTON**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



**Matt Mazouch**

for Barton," he said.

"There is so much work out there and so few qualified people to do it. The contractors I

talk to say they can't find good, skilled help and the homeowners I talk to all say it is hard to find someone to do a project for them. Carpentry is a skill that must be learned and developed. There is a need for qualified carpenters in central Kansas just like the rest of the world. The more we produce locally the better our community is as a whole."

For more information, contact Carpentry Instructor Matt Mazouch at [mazouchm@bartonccc.edu](mailto:mazouchm@bartonccc.edu) or (620) 792-9336.

## Ribbon Cuttings!

### Congratulations A440 on 10th Anniversary



The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce staff and Ambassador's Club hosted a Ribbon Cutting commemorating A440 Musical Instruments' 10th anniversary. Lyle Jones, the store's manager, wrote a mostly true and [original song about the store's owners](#), and how the store has grown to be a staple of Great Bend local business as well as the only brick and mortar music store in the state of Kansas, west of Hutchinson.

For more information about A440 Musical Instruments Supply & Repair, visit them at 1207 Main Street, Great Bend during regular store hours: Monday – Friday, Noon – 6:00p.m. and Saturday, 10:00a.m. – 2:00p.m. Find them on [Facebook](#), or call the store at (620)796-2335.

### Camp Aldrich Bunk Houses Completed



The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce staff and Ambassador's Club hosted a Ribbon Cutting at Camp Aldrich, which is operated by Barton Community College. Camp Aldrich is located two miles north of Highway 156 between Claflin, Kansas, and the Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area. The ribbon cutting ceremony commemorates the completion of the new Trails End Lodge, which was destroyed by a fire in August of 2018. The new and expanded facility was completed in the fall of 2020 but Barton waited until vaccines were widely available before hosting the event.

For more information on the Trails End Lodge and other amenities at Camp Aldrich, go online: <https://bartonccc.edu/publicresources/campaldrich>.

### Just In Time Celebrates 5th Anniversary



Just in Time Remodeling, 135 SW 30 Ave. in Great Bend, celebrated their 5th Anniversary with a ribbon cutting. In addition to the anniversary Just In Time Remodeling commemorated the completion of the new office and moving their shop into one larger location as the business continues to grow.

Depending on the type of projects, Just In Time Remodeling completes between 50 and 100 per year. They employ eight people and serve the Great Bend area. Just In Time Remodeling is experienced, licensed, insured, and have samples of their work available to browse on the website: [www.justintimeremodeling.com](http://www.justintimeremodeling.com). The new shop and office are located one mile west of Great Bend off Highway 56 at 135 SW 30 Ave, Great Bend.

For more information on Just In Time Remodeling, find them online at [www.justintimeremodeling.com](http://www.justintimeremodeling.com), on [Facebook](#), call or text: 620-617-1714.

### Wheatland Electric commemorates new Location



Wheatland Electric hosted an open house and ribbon cutting at their new Great Bend facility on Monday, Oct. 25, 2021. During the evening program, attendees toured the 30,000-square foot facility, which broke ground last fall and opened to the public August 18. The new building features a customer-service lobby with a drive-up window, a warehouse facility and truck barn, and an outdoor green space with working fossil-free energy sources.

For more information, visit <https://www.weci.net>



## More Ribbon Cuttings!

### Massive Mural Crosses the Finish Line in Great Bend



Members of the Great Bend community recently gathered to commemorate the completion of a massive, 3000 square foot mural saluting the rich history of drag racing in Barton County. The project was organized and commissioned by the Barton Arts Movement, a grassroots volunteer movement under the auspices of the Golden Belt Community Foundation. The colorful masterpiece is located on the north side of Golden Belt Bicycle Shop at 1111 Main Street in downtown Great Bend. Generous donors stepped up in a matter of weeks to make it possible to bring back international graffiti artist, Ryan Christenson, also known as ARCY. The Barton Arts Movement has additional projects planned for Hoisington, Ellinwood, and Claflin later this fall ([read more on the next murals](#)). Anyone interested in following the movement can learn more at [www.bartonartsmovement.com](http://www.bartonartsmovement.com), or follow Barton Arts Movement on [Facebook](#).

### Adams Brown Expands Via Acquisition in Wichita

WICHITA, KS – Adams Brown, a leading regional CPA and business advisory firm, announced its intent to acquire Wichita-based Fortner & Short LLC (F&S) effective November 1, 2021.

With all the changes within the CPA industry in recent years, both firms found that they align on what matters most – providing clients with deeper, holistic business solutions.

“When two firms are grounded in how they treat their clients and their people, it’s a great cultural fit,” said Adams Brown Managing



Partner Brian Staats. “This acquisition is a win for all involved.”

Adams Brown is the 144th largest CPA firm in the country according to Inside Public Accounting. The firm was named a Regional Leader and the 11th Fastest Growing Firm by Accounting Today earlier this year.

“We’re excited to add the talented professionals at

F&S to our construction and small business teams,” Staats said. “Not only are they great additions to our team, they will add tremendous value to our existing clients as we tap them to assist in certain areas.”

Adams Brown serves 12 markets across Kansas and Arkansas. The merged practices will operate under the name AdamsBrown, LLC.

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**FEATURED  
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**Julie Mazouch**

**Peoples Bank & Trust**



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

My first exposure to Great Bend was attending and graduating from Barton Community College. I then moved to Manhattan and graduated from Kansas State University with an Advertising degree. I had an epiphany in Chicago while visiting various advertising agencies. I realized I loved visiting large cities but could never envision myself living in one. It's not what, but who brought me back to Great Bend. My fiancé, now husband of 14 years, Chris, inspired me to come back to GB. In addition, I was looking for my first job after college and found it at CPI Qualified Plan Consultants, Inc. Living close to family is what keeps us here.

**Where do you work and what do you do there (describe your role)?**

I work at Peoples Bank and Trust as the Frontline Manager. My day to day varies depending on the needs of customers. There are many different roles involved. I could be helping the team, consulting customers, opening accounts, counting cash, doing research, submitting documents, working on accounts payable, and more. There is never a dull moment in banking!

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

I've been to two Aerosmith concerts. One of which, I was 37 weeks pregnant. I knew my husband would say no to going knowing I would be so far along in my pregnancy. I bought tickets anyway and surprised him the day of the concert as an early birthday present to him. I guess you can say I like 'Livin' On The Edge'.

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

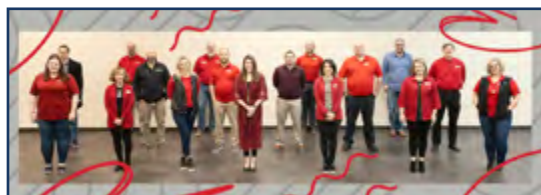
Music energizes me; watching sports brings me excitement, and raising two boys brings me joy!

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

I would be terrible at a first responder-type job such as a police officer or a firefighter. One thing I do know is that God did not put me on this earth for that role.

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

It is my first year serving as a Chamber Ambassador. I like how involved our Chamber Ambassadors are with the business community. Making connections and offering support to our local businesses is an exciting part of being an ambassador.



**LEARN MORE:**

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

**GET INVOLVED:**

Call us to get on the list: 620-792-2401

**About the 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. They host the weekly Chamber Coffees, attend Business After Hours and Ribbon Cuttings, serve on Chamber committees, and assist with member recruitment and retention efforts.

1125 Williams,  
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Phone: 620-792-2401  
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Megan Barfield, President/CEO

Lee Ann June, Communications & Program Coordinator

Taylor Stegman, Business Office Manager

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





## Home-Grown *tech* INA*alert* sees steady growth in Kansas and beyond

Monty is their dad.

Manhattan.

The Strecker boys, Barton County natives, and one other employee had an idea and ran with it.

When they outgrew the garage, the business moved in 2013 to a former laundromat in the 200 block of East Santa Fe and then relocated in 2017 to the former bowling alley that had been gutted at 108 West Santa Fe.

The 10,000 square feet is home to offices and warehouse space. Branch offices are in Wichita and Garden City. "There is likely more to come," Nick said.

Today, INAalert has 42 employees at the Santa Fe site and the business office on Main Street. About 95 percent of these employees live in Ellinwood; a few live in St. John, McPherson and

Nick is chief operating officer and his wife, Laura, is president.

"Our goal is always to create more jobs," Nick said. "As the company continues to grow, our primary focus is replacing employment lost in Ellinwood during the last two decades. As jobs are lost, we try to bring them back. Without jobs, you lose people."

The brothers pursued this line of work because "technology is amazing," Nick commented. "There is a demand for tech products in rural America and a lack of companies to deliver it. We fill that void."

INAalert products include camera surveillance systems, smart-door controls, text-alert software, nurse call, VOIP phone systems, computer hardware, private LTE networks and intercom systems. All are user friendly.

"We have service and sales professionals covering Kansas and beyond, making us available when and where you need us," Nick said. "We bring premium technology

The easy-going atmosphere at a home-grown company in Ellinwood disguises the serious business being conducted on-site and in about 20 other states.

INAalert integrates hardware and software for a number of technology products, including security systems for a wide variety of commercial customers.

The company started in 2010 when brothers Nick and Jake Strecker started tinkering and planning in the garage at Monty Strecker's Ellinwood residence.





that is traditionally available only in metro areas to rural communities.”

The company installs hardware but many software issues are handled remotely. “We have great remote support,” Nick said.

INAalert serves industries including local and state government, education and agriculture. Products such as inside and outside surveillance cameras, automatic door locks and card readers are installed in jails, offices, parking lots, feedlots and implement dealerships.

The healthcare industry uses the company’s nurse-call system.

“Our great employees have allowed us to grow 50 percent during each of the last seven years,” Nick reported. “And we are on course for that type of growth this year and next year too. We are stair-stepping to the next levels.

“The people who work here are the backbone of the business,” he added. “It really is a team here. We are planning for future growth into multiple states.”

Prior experience is not necessary for those who apply for a job at the company. “Everything here is from scratch; we find the best fit for each employee,” Nick commented.

The Streckers rely on a unique source of information for matching an employee with a certain job. That source is their mom’s PhD dissertation; Dr. Catherine Strecker’s topic was “Assessing Multiple Intelligences.”

Nick said the dissertation focuses on “whether you are an audio, visual or tactile learner. For example, installers have tactile skills and can work with their hands. We evaluate each person and find the job that works best for them.

“Our employees are often self-taught and there is on-the-job training. Self-motivation is very important.”

Company installers do almost all the hardware work but sometimes the job must be outsourced. For instance, an upcoming job in Chicago will use contractors there to handle the installation but local employees will manage the tech side of things.

For those who understand techie vocabulary, here are a few specifics about the company’s products.

Surveillance systems use all the Internet of Things (IoT) has to offer. IP network cameras are configured to transmit across 3G/4G LTE cellular systems, 2.4/5 Hz



antennae, 900 MHz antennae, as well as traditional network connections.

These systems can be configured to work with a broad range of alarm triggers, including smoke detectors, power outage alarms, H2S gas sensors, passive IR motion detectors, thermostats and much more.

Solar, mobile and standard powers are used so that systems are static, transportable and function while mobile. Systems can send text, snapshots or video clip notices when an event occurs to as many recipients as desired.

“We combine knowledge about this state-of-the-art technology with our desire to meet customers’ needs,” Nick commented. “Businesses and organizations are encouraged to contact us anytime.”





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**AMC**

## United Way of Central Kansas 2021 snapshot

The month of October was a busy one for the United Way of Central Kansas. It started off with Beef 'N Brew. A first-time event that saw great success and will become a staple for UWCK in the years to come. With the amazing partnership built with A&G Catering and Dry Lake Brewing, UWCK is confident that this will be a fantastic fundraiser for many years. The 130 guests included event sponsors and community members from across Barton County and raised over \$7,000 to support their 21 Community Partners.

Next up was Reality U at Great Bend Middle School. Not only was the simulation a great experience for 8th graders, the breakout sessions took a deeper dive into what these students can expect to encounter in the next 4 years as they enter High School, but also beyond. Students walked away from the experience with a greater appreciation

for all that their parents do for them and how difficult it can sometimes be when the realities of life happen.



As they begin to wind down their campaign for the year, with workplace visits and direct donation requests, UWCK is grateful for all those

who have chosen to support UWCK. The funds raised from businesses, organizations, and individuals go towards supporting their Community Partners, who are each day fighting to help those most vulnerable in the community. They are striving to improve the health, education, and financial stability of those around us in order to strengthen the community. UWCK hopes that the community will continue to support their work and the work of their Partners by donating today.

Visit [uwck.org](http://uwck.org) and click on Donate to make a difference today.

## Join Heartland Farm for two special events this holiday season

First, take a drive out to the Farm for the free Holiday Open House on Saturday, November 27th from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Get to know their herd of adorable alpacas. Learn about these interesting creatures and their incredibly warm, soft, fluffy fleece. Shop the selection of winter accessories featuring alpaca yarns along with a selection of homemade and handmade goods. Kids activities available. Alpaca walking sessions every hour. This event is outside, so dress for the weather. Masks are required in the gift shop.

Find out more on Facebook @HeartlandFarmKS, online at [www.heartlandfarm-ks.org/holiday-open-house](http://www.heartlandfarm-ks.org/holiday-open-house), or by calling 620-923-4585.

Next, join them for a Holiday Cookies and Crafts workshop on Saturday, December 11th from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Make and decorate your own alpaca-shaped



cookies – and receive a free, alpaca cookie cutter. Create a unique, holiday craft using natural materials from Heartland Farm. This is an indoor event and is limited, therefore, to vaccinated guests. Please bring a mask. Limit 20 guests. Fee: \$10.

See more details on Facebook @HeartlandFarmKS, and register at [www.heartlandfarm-ks.org/holiday-cookies-crafts-workshop](http://www.heartlandfarm-ks.org/holiday-cookies-crafts-workshop) or call 620-923-4585.

Heartland Farm is an oasis of peace located an easy 14 miles west of Great Bend. Take W. Barton County Rd (10th Street) west for 13 miles. When the pavement ends, continue west on gravel (Ave. X) for one mile. Turn south on CR 390 for ½ mile. Heartland Farm will be on the west side of the road. For other directions from other locations, see [www.heartlandfarm-ks.org/contact-us/directions](http://www.heartlandfarm-ks.org/contact-us/directions).

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### Lindsey Bogner joins Barton Community College Foundation as new Executive Director

The Barton Community College Foundation has been raising money and managing endowments for scholarships and enhancements to the college for more than five decades. Lindsey Bogner, the next Executive Director of the Foundation, is hard at work absorbing as much knowledge as she can from the current director, Coleen Cape, who will retire in January.

"Working with Coleen has been a great experience; we are so lucky to be able to spend so much time together before she retires," Bogner said. "She has been at the College for 27 years and her expertise and mentorship are a boon that brings a deeper level of understanding, putting me on the right track."

Bogner comes to the college with years of experience serving as the Foundation and Community Education Director at the Ellinwood Hospital & Clinic, and as a Communications Coordinator for the Clara Barton Hospital and Foundation. She holds a master's degree in management and leadership from Western Governors University.

"I really want to focus on making what we have more successful," she said. "The first order of business for me is to evaluate all of the events and programs and see if there are any changes that we can make before creating something new."

She said the "secret sauce" is the quality of the team she will be leading, including Administrative Assistant Amy Wheeler and Business and Accounting Specialist Donna McCormick.

"Donna and Amy are amazing, and with our mix of personalities, we are going to make a great team," Bogner said. "They've got the know-how and the heart for everything the Foundation does."

Speaking of heart, Bogner said she finds tremendous purpose in her role as the next leader of the foundation.

"I wake up and I get to help someone accomplish their goals every day," she said. "Whether that is helping a donor set up an endowment or scholarship to recognize their loved one, giving a student a scholarship so they can get an education, or supporting the faculty and staff in their work, I have the opportunity to help make things happen. That is an amazing feeling and I love doing it."

In addition to her experience and credentials, Bogner is a US Army veteran and is highly involved in the community. She is a member of the Hines-Gossman American Legion Post #320 of Ellinwood. She serves on the Action Team for the Barton Arts Movement, is a member of Barton County Young Professionals, and volunteers as a Kansas Hunter Education Instructor for the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. Lindsey lives near Odin, with her husband Mark, and their two children, Zoey and Otto.



**Lindsey Bogner**

### Dr. Crystal Hill appointed chief of staff at Pawnee Valley Campus

A familiar face to many patients and their families in central Kansas is now the new chief of staff at The University of Kansas Health System Pawnee Valley Campus.

Crystal Hill, MD, who recently was appointed to the position, said "this is a great place to practice medicine. I am truly honored to represent and lead such a remarkable medical team."

In the role of chief of staff, Dr. Hill leads the Medical Executive Committee; serves as a member of the hospital's Board of Directors; serves as a liaison between the board and hospital administrator on medical matters; and oversees performance and quality related to medical care.

"As I serve in these capacities, we will continue to provide quality care to the community and promote the services we offer through primary-care and specialty providers," Dr. Hill said. "I will listen to the needs of the community and respond accordingly."

The family-medicine team provides a host of services including acute and swing-bed admissions, outpatient therapies and treatment, and clinic appointments. Specialty providers offer cardiology, general surgery, orthopedics, pulmonology and urology.

"The hospital and clinic are dedicated to providing family medicine and specialty care locally," Dr. Hill noted. "With the support of our Pawnee Valley Community Hospital Foundation, we invest in state-of-the-art equipment. All of us strive to secure the best patient outcomes and improve the



**Crystal Hill, MD, chief of staff**

overall health of our community."

Dr. Hill has cared for and treated patients for more than five years in her family-medicine practice at Pawnee Valley Medical Associates. She is board certified in family medicine, with the added qualification of board certification in hospice care and palliative medicine.

Her special interests include preventive care and physician-assisted weight loss.

Dr. Hill earned her bachelor's degree in human biology in 1997 at The University of Kansas and her medical degree in 2002 at The University of Kansas School of Medicine. She completed her Via Christi family-practice residency at Wichita in 2005.

Honors over the years include the National Committee for Quality Assurance's Diabetes Provider; nomination for Kansas Family Physician of the Year; and AMA Physician Recognition Awards.

Melanie Urban, Pawnee Valley Campus administrator, said "we strive to have the best patient outcomes by delivering quality care. We focus on this with a team of trained medical staff, nurses and other professionals committed to putting patients first, while collaborating to offer high-quality care."

"It is critical to have the chief of staff and administrator working hand-in-hand to lead the team," Urban continued. "This type of leadership is what it takes to provide exceptional healthcare and excellent service. I look forward to seeing the positive impact Dr. Hill's leadership will bring to our community."

## Congratulations!



## New Hires & Promotions

### Edwards provides skin care at Renue Salon, Spa & Fashion Boutique

Paige Edwards is a one-of-a-kind in her new position at Renue Salon, Spa & Fashion Boutique, 1419 Main, Great Bend.

Her official title is "esthetician," which means Edwards is a skin-care professional.

"I offer facials, waxing and body treatments," Edwards said. "Skin care is so important and many people are unaware there are products and treatments that can help them."

"For example, some have sun damage, dryness, acne or dark circles," she continued. "They can come in for a free consultation to determine which specific products and/or services could relieve some of their concerns."

Edwards was licensed in California before moving to Great Bend about a year ago. Now she has a Kansas license through the Kansas Board of Cosmetology.

She previously worked at another local salon "but for a long time I had wanted to come to Renue. This is a beautiful, full-service

facility."

While in Valley Springs, Ca., Edwards owned her own spa business for three years; she grew up in Tracy, Ca.

"I am very happy to be in Great Bend and working at Renue," she commented. "Everyone at the salon and in the community has been super nice and welcoming."

She and her husband, Skyler Edwards, a Great Bend firefighter, have two children – Chase, 4, and Payton, 1.

Susan Williams, salon and retail coordinator, said "we are

excited to have Paige on board. She is helping us achieve our goal of being Barton County's premier salon and spa, while enjoying the opportunity to grow her business."

Renue, 1419 Main, offers all hair-care treatments; face creams; lotions; facials, waxing and other skin-care treatments; manicures and pedicures; nail polishes; body wraps; hot-stone and deep-tissue massages; two tanning beds; infra-red sauna; and event room.



**Paige Edwards**

### Marketing Maven Welcomes Natalie Klima

Marketing Maven Consulting, a brand management and design firm based in Great Bend, Kansas, is pleased to announce the addition of a new full-time employee. Natalie Klima, a Kansas native, started with the company mid-October as a Marketing and Communications Coordinator. "As our client base has grown and diversified over the years, we have realized the need for a communications-oriented person to organize projects, write blog content for clients, handle email marketing, and assist with website maintenance," says Rachel Mawhirter, Marketing Maven's owner and founder. "Natalie is well-spoken, driven, and great with people. She's the perfect person to round out our team, and we are confident she'll do a phenomenal job keeping projects organized and moving forward with the highest level of professionalism."

Klima grew up in Stafford County, Kansas



**Natalie Klima**

and then Colby, Kansas before graduating from Colby Community College in 2014. She then transferred to Fort Hays State University where she studied Ag Business, Finance and Business Law, graduating with a Bachelor's Degree in May 2017. "I'm excited to transition to a career where marketing and communications are my full-time focus," Klima says. "Marketing Maven will

provide a great environment for learning and growth while also allowing me to build relationships and creative expression."

Klima will be handling writing, project management, social media development and strategy, email marketing, photography, and more. Outside of work, Klima enjoys volunteering, reading, taking photos, playing music, entertaining friends and family, and playing with her pup, Bodi. Natalie lives in Hays, Kansas with her husband Jordan.



## New Hires & Promotions

### Todd Stephenson joins Spectrum CPA Partners as staff accountant

Todd Stephenson, a Great Bend native and graduate of Great Bend High School, is a staff accountant with Spectrum CPA Partners, LLC. Todd is a graduate of Barton County Community College and Sterling College earning his accounting degree.

Todd started his bookkeeping career with a local farm equipment dealer and feeding operator. He then spent several



**Todd Stephenson**

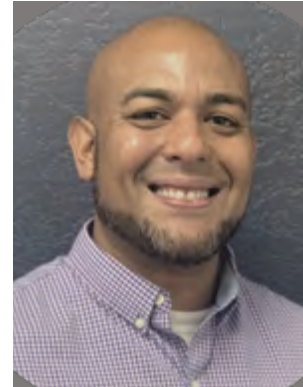
years in Kansas Public Schools business, gaining experience with audits of public and private schools, and non-profit organizations.

"This is a dream of mine to put my accounting degree and years of experience to work with an accounting office." Todd and his wife, Teri, also a Great Bend native, have been married over 35 years and have 5 adopted children – Travis, Vicki, Tonio, Shawn and Jordan.

### Landrum joins QS Nurses Team

Christopher Landrum came on board just a couple weeks ago as our Director of Business Development. He will oversee sales and marketing and client engagement/development. Below is a bio for him and attached is his picture. We are excited to have his skill and expertise add to the value of QS Nurses!

Chris has a passion for serving caregivers as he comes from a family of nurses. He has been around nursing facilities and hospitals his entire life. Chris



**Christopher Landrum**

was a maintenance supervisor for an assisted living facility for three years before pursuing a career in sales and marketing. During covid, Chris helped to keep hospitals and facilities safe while assisting with upgrades to communication

services, nurse call, and security systems. He has served his community for over two decades while coaching youth sports. Chris believes that we are all here to use our gifts from God to serve others and to help make the world a better place.

*Congratulations!*

## Welcome to Our NEWEST Chamber Members

### ISERN & CARPENTER LAW OFFICE

Jane Isern, Attorney/ Partner  
Gail Carpenter, Partner  
1909 Lakin Ave.  
Great Bend, KS 67530  
(620) 792-5388

[admin@brownisern.kscoxmail.com](mailto:admin@brownisern.kscoxmail.com)  
[www.browniserncarpenter.com](http://www.browniserncarpenter.com)

**Attorney**

### HAYDEN OUTDOORS REAL ESTATE

Alex Birney  
2318 Washington Street  
Great Bend, KS 67530  
(620) 617-8317

[abirney@haydenoutdoors.com](mailto:abirney@haydenoutdoors.com)  
[www.haydenoutdoors.com](http://www.haydenoutdoors.com)

**Real Estate**

### KELLER REAL ESTATE & INSURANCE AGENCY LISA NEELAND

Lisa Neeland, Realtor  
1101 Williams  
Great Bend, KS 67530  
(620) 792-2128

[lisa@kelleragency.com](mailto:lisa@kelleragency.com)

**Real Estate**

**GREAT BEND**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



JOIN NOW



### 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!

### YO DOG WIENERS

Josh & Laura Blankenship, Owners  
Great Bend, KS 67530  
(620) 282-3832

[laura711blankenship@gmail.com](mailto:laura711blankenship@gmail.com)  
[www.yodogwieners.com](http://www.yodogwieners.com)

**Restaurants**



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COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT  
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GENERAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
& MUCH MORE!

620-792-1325  
WWW.SUNFLOWERDIV.COM



## CHAMBER COFFEE SCHEDULE

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

Can't make it in-person, tune in to the Chamber's [Facebook Page](#) or [YouTube Channel](#)

**November 4, 2021**

### RENUÉ SALON & SPA BEAUTY BOUTIQUE

1419 Main Street in Great Bend

The stress and pressure of life takes its toll. It's time to RENUÉ! Renue is a full service salon & spa offering everything from haircuts and styles, manicures, pedicures, eyelash extensions, and facials to tanning and massage therapy. Renue offers a luxurious and relaxing atmosphere where you can let the stress melt away. They offer a full line of professional salon products from brands like Redken, Biolage, Aquage and more! Their boutique is stocked with new fashion & accessory arrivals for fall that you'll love! Ask any of their stylists and they will help find the product that fits you best! Stop by or schedule an appointment. You'll love the way you feel.

**November 11, 2021**

### ELLINWOOD HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

At Gather | 19 N. Main Street in Ellinwood

Ellinwood District Hospital is a 25-bed Critical Access Hospital with a 24/7 Emergency Room. We provide inpatient acute care, skilled swing bed, and intermediate swing bed care and many outpatient services such as physical and occupational therapy, a full-service laboratory, and a full range of imaging services – traditional x-ray, CT, mobile mammography, mobile US/sonography, mobile MRI. The Hospital also operates Ellinwood Clinic. The clinic offers full family care, from newborns to seniors, provided by practitioners that truly care about you and your health.

**November 18, 2021**

### FAMILY CRISIS CENTER

1924 Broadway in Great Bend

The Family Crisis Center, Inc., based in Great Bend, Kansas, provides advocacy and support to all survivors and secondary victims of domestic and sexual violence, child abuse and neglect while encouraging social change through awareness, education and prevention. From our 24-hour crisis hotline to supportive services to professional training, we offer hope and healing for families experiencing domestic and sexual violence, child abuse and neglect.

**November 25, 2021**

### NO COFFEE - HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

**December 2, 2021**

### HEART OF KANSAS MERCANTILE

1212 Main Street in Great Bend

Heart of Kansas Mercantile & Miss Pretty Pickles is a unique and exciting gift store located at 1212 Main St. in Great Bend. They offer a stunning selection of gifts, cards, toys, children's clothing and books, fashion and accessories along with gourmet foods, kitchen accessories and eclectic items all presented in a fun "Kansas" theme! You'll also find an amazing collection of items made by local artists and crafters. They always offer free gift wrapping along with free samples of tasty foods.



3307 10th Street • Great Bend, KS 67530

**McDonald's**

is providing coffee for Chamber of Commerce coffees.



# HIGHLIGHTED NOVEMBER EVENTS IN GREAT BEND

- 1...Golden Belt Community Concert – Veritas, Great Bend Municipal Auditorium, 7:30pm
- 3...Building Bridges, Great Bend High School, 2027 Morton, 6pm
- 4... Chamber Coffee: Renue Salon & Spa, 1419 Main St. in Great Bend, Program @ 9:30am on the Chamber's Facebook Page or You Tube Channel**
- 6...Pawnee Valley Community Hospital Foundation Charity Gala and Auction, 1500 Toles, Larned, KS, 5:45pm
- 6...Sunflower Diversified Dance without Limits, Great Bend Activity Center, 2715 18th St, 6pm
- 11...Chamber Coffee: Ellinwood Hospital Foundation, at Gather, 19 N. Main St., Ellinwood. in Great Bend, Program @9:30am on the Chamber's Facebook Page or You Tube Channel**
- 15...Chamber Chat LIVE: Nex-Tech, Virtual on the Chamber's Facebook Page or You Tube Channel, 2pm**
- 13...Sunflower Diversified 1st Annual Turkey Trot 5K, Forest & Main, 9:30am
- 16...Central Kansas Partnership Meeting, Court House, 1400 Main St., 11am
- 17...Chamber of Commerce Employer Roundtable: Workforce, Great Bend Event Center, 3111 10th St, 11:00am-1:00 pm**
- 18...Chamber Coffee: Family Crisis Center, TBD in Great Bend, Program @9:30am on the Chamber's Facebook Page or You Tube Channel**
- 18-20...Four Old Broads, The Crest 1905 Lakin, Thursday-Saturday 6:30-7:30 pm and Sunday 1-2 pm
- 22...Chamber Chat LIVE: What's Up, Great Bend! Virtual, 2pm**
- 25...Happy Thanksgiving
- 24-26...USD 428: No School – Thanksgiving Recess
- 26...Chamber Office Closed**
- Dec 1... BCYP - Party with a Purpose, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM, The Fieldhouse / Catalyst Therapy and Sports Rehab, 2817 9th St**

## Recurring Events:

Great Bend City Council Meetings, 1st & 3rd Mondays, Events Center, 3111 10th St, 6:30pm

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

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

## Top teachers recognized in USD 428

Two well-deserving educators from Great Bend USD 428 have been named the 2022 USD 428 Teachers of the Year. Honorees, Dara Touslee, kindergarten teacher at Park Elementary School, and Joseph Bliven, science teacher at Great Bend Middle School, will advance to the 2023 Kansas Teacher of the Year

competition.

"The Kansas Teacher of the Year program is a great way to celebrate our outstanding teachers as well as elevate their work for recognition among colleagues



and peers across the state," said Khris Thexton, USD 428 Superintendent.

"Mr. Bliven and Mrs. Touslee were chosen from a strong pool of candidates," said Thexton. "I congratulate

them on the work they do every day. Beyond the classroom, these teachers are leaders in their departments, buildings, and in our school community."

Questions about the local Kansas Teacher of the contest can be directed to the USD 428 District Education Center at 620-793-1500.



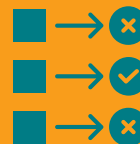
Surrounded by an audience of energetic kindergarten students, Dara Touslee, teacher at Park Elementary School, was named the 2022 USD 428 Elementary Teacher of the Year on Tuesday, October 12, 2021. Touslee has taught in Great Bend for 28 years. Pictured left to right, Khris Thexton, superintendent; Adam Cline, principal of Park Elementary; Dara Touslee, kindergarten teacher at Park; John Popp, assistant superintendent; Tricia Reiser, director of teaching and learning; and Touslee's proud kindergarten students.



Joseph Bliven

READ THE FULL STORY





ONLINE REGISTRATION →

# WorkForce Roundtable

NOV17, 2021 | 11 - 1pm | GreatBend Event Center



The Workforce Crisis that we face will be more challenging in the future, but there are solutions that will work for organizations in any industry, and for companies both large and small.

## Our Panelists & Talking Points:

**Tucky Allen (Business Services Director/Rapid Response Coordinator - Kansas WorkforceONE)**

- Recruitment Assistance
- On-the-Job Training
- Apprenticeship
- Rapid Response (from an aversion point of view)

**Sara Hayden (President - Great Bend Economic Development)**

- Recruitment Incentives
- Job shadow/apprenticeship/internship program
- Expansion incentives

**Laura Patzner (One-Stop Operator - Kansas WorkforceONE)**

- Workforce system partners
- Looking beyond a resume
- Training what you want

**Megan Barfield (President - Great Bend Chamber of Commerce)**

- Recruiting Resources
- CentralKansasJobs.com

The discussion will continue with YOUR questions! The panelists will be focusing on what you and your business are looking to get answers on!!

\$35 for  
Chamber  
members  
\$55 for  
Non-Members

Lunch is Included



# Great Bend woman survives breast cancer thanks to early detection

Early detection of a tumor may have saved Rachel Duryee's life. Duryee, who turned 35 a few weeks earlier, thought the little bump may have been inflammation or a blocked milk duct because she was still nursing her daughter when she noticed it.

She was mistaken. In December 2019, about three weeks after Duryee first noticed the bump, she learned that it was a fast-growing type of breast cancer.

"I admit, I was reluctant to see the doctor," Duryee said. "A couple weeks went by, but Dustin, my husband, kept saying he had a bad feeling about this. He strongly urged me to check into it. Thank goodness he did."

Duryee saw Elise Snapp, APRN, at The University of Kansas Health System Great Bend Family Medicine. Snapp recommended Duryee get a mammogram quickly.

Duryee followed up with a mammogram at Great Bend Campus imaging services, where she works as a radiology technologist. The technologist who performed Duryee's



mammogram "thought something didn't look right," Duryee said.

"The radiologist was there that day, and my biopsy was done immediately," she said. "They found a cluster and sure enough ..."

The bump went from being small "to something I could wrap my hand around within several weeks," Duryee said. "I ended up with multiple tumors and one really big one. It easily could have spread." Duryee credits Heather Ewy, who performed the mammogram, for knowing that the radiologist should be contacted right away.

"Heather's skill level told her something should be done soon," Duryee said. "She is so professional and compassionate and good at what she does."

Duryee's treatment started with six chemotherapy treatments beginning in January 2020 and ending four months later.

Then came a bilateral mastectomy, 35 radiation treatments over three months and the administration of an IV drug for a year.

Duryee has no family history of breast cancer and does not have the BRCA gene mutation, which can increase the risk of breast cancer. She stresses that early detection is vital.

"If you find something, don't put off going to the doctor," she said. "No matter your age, be vigilant with self-exams too."

"The best way to beat breast cancer is to find it early," said Shannon Deines, imaging services manager. "The best way to find it early is with an annual mammogram."

Women should schedule their first mammogram at age 40. If someone has a family history of breast cancer, healthcare providers may suggest starting earlier.

New technology offering mammograms with 3D capability has been available in Great Bend since March of this year, said Deines.

"This is state-of-the-art technology," Deines said. "A 2D mammogram provides just two pictures, while 3D captures a series of pictures from multiple angles. This three-dimensional image allows the radiologist to see smaller areas of the breast."

An additional advantage of 3D mammography is that it decreases false positive results. Mammograms using 3D technology normally take only 10-15 minutes to complete.

Women who don't have health insurance don't have to forgo annual mammograms. The University of Kansas Health System in Great Bend offers breast cancer screenings for women age 40-64 through Early Detection Works, a program provided by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. In April, EDW began covering the cost of 3D mammograms.

To schedule an appointment for a mammogram, call 620-791-6299. Appointments are available 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday and 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday.

## Narcan Awareness March hosted by Rise Up Central Kansas

Rise Up Central Kansas hosted the Recovery Out Loud Every, Voice Matters celebration on September 24, 2021. A Narcan Awareness March, with participants recovering from substance use, trauma, or mental health issues marched around the Courthouse Square, holding signs displaying information about the life-saving opioid overdose reversal medication Naloxone, more commonly known as Narcan. In 2020, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention reported 93,331 fatal drug overdoses. It is believed that many of those overdose victims could have survived if Narcan had been available. Seth Dewey, Reno County's Health Educator - Substance Misuse and Rise Up task force member, provided information on recognizing an overdose and how to administer Narcan after placing a 911 call.

"Narcan is another tool in your emergency kit. Students prescribed opioids for sports injuries, and those struggling with memory loss are at risk of overdose. Narcan can be the difference between life and death," explained Rise Up Central Kansas Coordinator Amy Ferguson.

As a part of the event, thirty-five speakers with lived experience recovering from substance use,



trauma, or mental health issues and their family members or people of support shared "What does recovery mean to you?"

"Recovery means having my family and my life back, better than ever; I have reestablished my relationship with Christ and am a productive member of society," Valencia Reif shared.

"It was eye-opening and inspiring to hear all those voices sharing their experience strength and hope," said Corky Rankin, a supportive community member who attended the event.

The evening ended with 700+ luminaries with positive messages from participants from Stepping Stones the Barton County Health Department, the Barton County Detention Facility, Central Kansas Community Corrections, the Dream Center, Barton County Youth Care, Barton County Young Men's Organization, the Family Crisis Center, CKP Youth

Crew, 20th Judicial District Juvenile Services, KCSL, Pilot Club of Great Bend, Core Communities and The Center for Counseling. Stepping Stones, The Center For Counseling, Mirror Inc, Valley Hope, Eldridge Fencing donated items to make the event a success.

On October 2, 2021, the recovery community played a very muddy kickball tournament with area law enforcement personnel. The theme was United, not Divided. The players designated teams before the game "kicked off." The kickball game created a unique opportunity for all who attended to have fun and support the growing recovery movement in Barton County.

Detective Sgt. David Paden, Barton County Sheriff's Office, explained, "It was fun to watch the slipping and sliding and to watch them play and work together as teammates. I look forward to next year."

# Pawnee Valley Campus offers 3D mammography, follow-up services

It's not just the availability of 3D mammography that attracts patients; it's also the ability to offer diagnostic follow-ups and breast ultrasound at The University of Kansas Health System Pawnee Valley Campus.

Shelly Stanton, director of Imaging at the hospital, shared information about all these services in observance of Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October.

"The 3D mammogram is state-of-the-art technology but our follow-up services are also important," Stanton said. "For example, if an abnormality is detected, and a diagnostic mammogram and/or ultrasound are needed, we can accommodate you right here at Pawnee Valley Campus."

Stanton and her colleagues are aware that an abnormality "can cause anxiety. But we can help ease that anxiety because the same technologist who performed your mammogram is here during the follow-up with answers to your questions."

In addition, Stanton noted, if a patient needs a diagnostic mammogram, the radiologist is consulted in real time via telephone and reviews the diagnostic images with the technologist. The radiologist can determine if further imaging is needed while the patient is still at the hospital.

3D mammography became available at Pawnee Valley Campus almost a year ago, as a result of a capital campaign spearheaded by "our awesome Pawnee Valley Community Hospital Foundation and the support of this great community," Stanton said.

This combined effort resulted in technology that takes approximately 300-600 image



**Shelly Stanton, director of Imaging at The University of Kansas Health System Pawnee Valley Campus, raises awareness about the hospital's 3D mammography and follow-up services.**

slices of tissue in the same amount of time as the 2D, which takes only one image for each view.

The increased volume minimizes the overlapping of breast tissue, which can either hide or mimic cancer. "Having multiple image slices results in fewer false alarms and greatly improves the

screening's accuracy, especially in patients with dense breast tissue," Stanton said, noting mammography takes only 10 to 15 minutes.

The new technology has been popular at the hospital since it became available but COVID-19 has made "some people leery of getting routine testing," Stanton acknowledged. "Patients can be

assured our hospital is following all precautions to ensure safety.

"Yearly mammograms can detect changes while they are small," she added. "Not every abnormality is cancer, but if it is, early detection is crucial. An early diagnosis can prevent growth and the spread to other parts of the body. Annual screenings help ensure the earliest diagnoses with the most treatment options."

Stanton noted that central Kansans are fortunate to have Pawnee Valley Campus and its many services close at hand.

"We are fortunate to have a Critical Access Hospital with this advanced level of imaging equipment," Stanton commented. "Our administrators and board of directors want to provide the very best healthcare services to our local community.

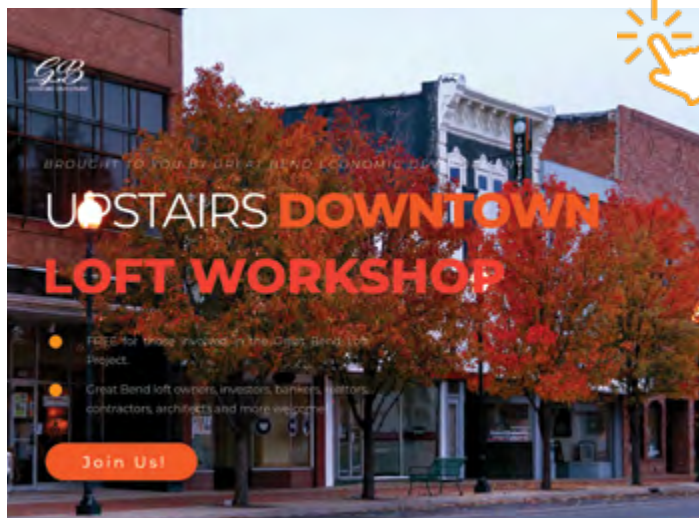
"We are proud that we don't compromise on quality because we are a smaller facility. We know many of our patients and take the time to reassure them. Larger facilities may not be able to do this."

## RSVP for the GBED Upstairs Downtown Loft Workshop to be held on Nov. 8 & 9

Great Bend Economic Development is so EXCITED about this opportunity on November 8 & 9!! Join experts, Dan Carmody and Mike Jackson, from the group Upstairs Downtown to learn all about the loft building process and how to be successful! In this workshop, you'll learn about assessing the market feasibility, see some examples of existing downtown loft spaces, learn about financial opportunities and so much more!

### Who should attend this FREE event?

- Owners of loft spaces in downtown Great Bend that are interested in applying for a loft grant!
- Potential investors who want to learn more about the opportunities and find loft partners!



- Contractors interested in working on these projects
- Architects interested in working on these

Click the Image to get more information from the GBED website or the YouTube link for a video from Sara Hayden on this up coming event.



projects

- Realtors that would like a better understanding of the opportunities.

- Bankers curious to know more about the financial incentives available and see what they can do locally to help fill the gap!

- Local government officials!

- This is a FREE event that GBED is providing to make sure we can get this loft project started with a bang! Please register using the link below so that we can keep you updated on the event!



# Barton County Historical Society Receives Humanities Kansas SHARP Recovery Grant

Humanities Kansas recently awarded a SHARP Recovery Grant in the amount of \$5,141 to Barton County Historical Society in Great Bend. Executive Director Richard Lartz serves as project director. The funds of the grant will be utilized for a paid staff position to address collections at the historical society starting November 1, 2021 and concluding on January 28, 2022.

The SHARP Recovery Grants support Kansas cultural organizations that provide humanities programming and are facing financial hardship due to the coronavirus. Grants are for general operating support, staff retention, and needed digital and/or operational transitions for cultural work in the post-pandemic era. Humanities Kansas awarded 121

SHARP grants statewide.

"Humanities Kansas is honored to be able to support Kansas cultural organizations as we recover from the impact of Covid," said Julie Mulvihill, Humanities Kansas Executive Director. "This past year has demonstrated that Kansans lean into the humanities during challenging times. Kansas cultural organizations that do work in the humanities provide important social connections and contribute to the economic well-being and strength of our communities."

Funds have been made available through the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to assist cultural institutions affected by the coronavirus as part of the American Rescue Plan Act

of 2021 (ARP) approved by the U.S. Congress and signed into law by President Joseph R. Biden.

## About Humanities Kansas

Humanities Kansas is an independent nonprofit spearheading a movement of ideas to empower the people of Kansas to strengthen their communities and our democracy. Since 1972, HK's pioneering programming, grants, and partnerships have documented and shared stories to spark conversations and generate insights. Together with statewide partners and supporters, HK inspires all Kansans to draw on diverse histories, literatures, and cultures to enrich their lives and to serve the communities and state we all proudly call home. Visit [humanitieskansas.org](http://humanitieskansas.org).

# Housing Opportunities announces new project

Housing Opportunities, Inc. (HOI) is pleased to announce the recent award of Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) and HOME Funds from Kansas Housing Resources Corporation (KHRC) for a planned 28-unit project in Great Bend, Cambridge Park, LLC. These combined housing awards total up to nearly \$6 million. KHRC awarded 12 projects out of 27 applications received. HOI will purchase 24 acres of land from a group of local doctors and Cambridge Park will be Phase 1 of a four-phase projection for this property over the next 8-10 years. The construction is planned to begin in Spring 2022 and is located directly East of UKHS Great Bend Campus and directly South of Wal-Mart. HOI and the project will add Grant St from 6th to 2nd Streets and will extend 6th Street 150 feet East as a part of this phase. Additional streets will be added as the phases are completed.

Cambridge Park is a project combining supportive services provided by Sunflower Diversified Services to allow the project to cater to their clientele. The vision of this project started in December 2018 with Vicky Dayton, the former Executive Director of HOI, and Jon Prescott with Sunflower Diversified Services, collaborating on the lack of appropriate housing for those with limited capabilities to navigate typical apartment and housing

floor plans and requiring certain services to meet their activities of daily living needs.

"Watching this project come to life knowing all of the people that will benefit from it has been so uplifting. Cambridge Park has components that HOI has never done before throughout our history as a company and we have welcomed the challenges and obstacles with open arms. HOI is beyond humbled to be a part of helping SDS provide safe and affordable housing for their clients; especially knowing they have struggled to find housing for some time now. I would also like to extend a huge thank you and nod of appreciation to the group of doctors that have worked with HOI and given us the opportunity to purchase this large 24-acre property in order for this project, and many others, to come to fruition. It truly means so much for HOI's future!" Callie Miller – HOI Executive Director

The units will include 1- and 2-bedroom duplexes with 1 car attached garages. The project will also include a functional Community Building for tenant use. In addition, two single-room occupancy buildings will be comprised of 8 units split into loft style units each with a kitchenette and a private bathroom. Common living spaces, laundry facilities,



and full kitchens are also included on each side of the building to encourage a community shared living area. Office space will be included for SDS staff that connects both side of each building.

"We are so excited to work with Housing Opportunities (HOI) to achieve better housing for those we support – individuals with intellectual disabilities. This dream started over four years ago and it started gaining traction when I had the opportunity to talk about this dream with Vicky Dayton, which was over 3-years. And when Vicky retired, Callie Miller has done an outstanding job keeping this dream project moving closer to reality. In addition to HOI working so hard to get this project approved

by the state of Kansas, the Doctor's group who owned the property we needed were very enthusiastic about the vision we had, and they were extremely easy to work with so that HOI could acquire the property. These Doctors consist of Dr. Hildebrand, Dr. Smith, Dr. Brozek, and Dr. Fleske – a BIG THANK YOU goes to them because without their willingness to partner with HOI and Sunflower to meet the needs of our clients, we would have never been able to get started. Houses in Great Bend that are Disability Accessible are next to impossible to find and now those with disabilities will have a great option to lease property that is designed to meet their specific needs." – Jon Prescott, CEO of Sunflower Diversified Services, Inc.

HOI will be part owner and the General Contractor for Cambridge Park, as well as providing management and maintenance services when completed.

HOI is a Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) in the state of Kansas, a private non-profit, community-based service organization that has a staff with the capacity to develop affordable housing for the communities it serves. There are 22 CHDO's in Kansas with only 13 actively developing properties in the last 5 years.

# Nominations now open

For decades, the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce has been privileged to annually recognize a Business of the Year and a Citizen of the Year for their impact on the Great Bend business community. Established in 1912, the NextGen Leader of the Year Award aims to recognize a particular individual's service to the community as an up-and-coming leader. Nominations are being accepted now, through November 15, 2021.



Click the links below to add your nominations for the 2021 awards, presented at the 2022 Annual Banquet and Awards Night.

NEXTGEN LEADER OF THE YEAR



CITIZEN OF THE YEAR



BUSINESS OF THE YEAR



All the nominations collected will be reviewed by an anonymous selection committee. The winner will be announced during the Chamber's Annual Meeting &

Banquet on Saturday, February 19, 2022.

More information on the awards program can be found on [www.greatbend.org/awardprograms](http://www.greatbend.org/awardprograms).

## Send in your Chamber of Commerce Memories



We are still celebrating 100 years in 2021 of the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce and we know there are MANY members, businesses, and citizens with memorable stories and photos.

Are you, a parent, or maybe a grandparent a prior Chamber Ambassador, Board Member, or other committee volunteer? Did you attend a Chamber event? We want to see and hear about it! Share your stories and photos with us as we build our collection of memorabilia. Who knows, your memory may be shared on a Facebook post or used during the 100th Annual Chamber Banquet coming up in February 2022.

Submit your stories and photos

to: [marketing@greatbend.org](mailto:marketing@greatbend.org) or Drop-Off at the Chamber office located at 1125 Williams Street. Please include "Chamber 100th" in your subject line.







# Santas Around the World Announces



## Window Decorating Deadline

November 17th

## Judging Period

Nov. 18th - Nov. 20th

## Contestant Awards and Prizes

- Grand Champion - \$1,500
- Reserve Champion - \$1,000
- 3rd Place Award - \$500

Sponsored by

**ROSEWOOD**

Roots and Wings Santa Committee

## Winner Announcement

Saturday Nov. 27th

During the  
*Home for the Holidays  
Parade Festival*

# Downtown Great Bend

*Please join us as we bring back Downtown Holiday Window Decorating to help entice shoppers and visitors to our beautiful and historic Downtown!*

*- Santas Around The World Committee*

The ROSEWOOD Santa Committee is accepting applications now for the Window Decorating Contest located at the city of Great Bend, Downtown. If you want to participate and don't have a business downtown, sign-up to decorate one! Visit [Santas Around the World](#) facebook page and [Santas Around The World](#) website for downtown window availability.

Business owners and window decorators must submit their application by 5:00pm on Monday, November 8th, 2021 to be included in the judging. A panel of industry professionals will judge the overall Best Christmas Window(s).

### CONTEST PRIZES

We hope these events will promote lots of activity downtown during the holiday season. And what better way to celebrate and kick off a successful holiday season than with a contest with cash prizes?!

#### Judges Choice "Best Christmas Window" Awards!

- **Grand Champion Award winner will receive \$1,500.**
- **Reserve Champion Award winner will receive \$1,000.**
- **3rd Place Award \$500.**

All photos will be shared throughout the judging period on [Santas Around The World](#) Facebook page and website, and City's social platforms. Interested businesses and window decorators can apply online. Additional information regarding the contest and rules can be found on the [Santas Around The World](#) facebook page and website.

### DOWNTOWN WINDOW DECORATING CONTEST GUIDELINES

- ☒ Contest Windows must be completed by November 17th at 12:00pm.
- ☒ Judging period will run from November 18th through the 20th.
- ☒ Winners will be announced on November 27th during the *Home for the Holidays Parade Festival*.
- ☒ We strongly recommend that your window be lit up in some form at night. With thousands of people walking Downtown (think Lights On) it's the perfect opportunity for them to check out your window and be attracted to your business.
- ☒ Contest is for window decorations that are visible from the exterior only. Judging will be done from outside the building.

#### **Displays must be family friendly. Be creative, be festive, have fun! Judging criteria includes presentation, workmanship, originality, and the use of lights**

- **General Presentation** - The overall effective presentation in beauty and creativity.
- **Workmanship** - The craftsmanship in the creation. Detail in design and creation of objects with the effective use of colors and materials.
- **Lights** - The creativity in the use of lights.
- **Originality** - The creativeness and originality in the design concept.

### ENTRY IS FREE

- ☒ No cost or fees apply.
- ☒ Contest is limited to business windows within the Downtown area.
- ☒ If you want to participate and don't have a downtown business, you may have an opportunity to decorate a window. Vacant window decorating is limited. Availability is based on first come, first served basis.
- ☒ Independent decorators have the option to coordinate with a business owner for window decorating. That agreement is strictly between business owner and decorator.







# BARTON COUNTY IS HIRING

## GROW WORKFORCE

A community recruiter program

As residents of Barton County, YOU are our best advertisement! With this new program you get to recruit for our local businesses and get PAID!

How it works: check online at [www.gbedinc.com/grow-workforce](http://www.gbedinc.com/grow-workforce) weekly to see new advertised job openings. Know someone from outside the County that could fill that position? Recommend them for the job! If they fill the position, you get PAID!

Positions paying:  
\$35K - \$53K

GBED will pay  
recruiter \$250

After 90 days of successful  
employment, employer matches  
recruiting funds.

**\$500 TOTAL**

Positions paying:  
\$54K - \$69K

GBED will pay  
recruiter \$375

After 90 days of successful  
employment, employer matches  
recruiting funds.

**\$750 TOTAL**

Positions paying:  
\$70K +

GBED will pay  
recruiter \$500

After 90 days of successful  
employment, employer matches  
recruiting funds.

**\$1000 TOTAL**

### Term & Conditions

Eligible positions will fall into one of the above pay ranges.  
Company agrees to match funds after 90 days of employment.  
Company will provide GBED with details about position and company. Community recruiter will submit recommendations prior to the individual being hired.

### Interested?

[www.gbedinc.com/grow-workforce](http://www.gbedinc.com/grow-workforce)  
OR email  
[director@gbedinc.com](mailto:director@gbedinc.com) for questions

# NOW BOOKING FOR 2022!

**GREAT BEND**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

**CATALYST • CONVENER • CHAMPION**

An opportunity to enjoy a drink after work, in a fun and relaxed atmosphere, and connect with the local business community as well as current and prospective customers.

With a minimal investment, Chamber After Hour events create a brand experience by welcoming an average of 75-200 individuals into your place of business.



**CONNECT.**



**NETWORK.**



**GATHER.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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