

BUSINESS

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WHAT IS A CHAMBER OF COMMERCE?



BY KRISTIN RUMELHART

Many people think that a chamber of commerce is a tax-funded arm of the city. Although city government can play an active role in any chamber of commerce, the organization is not typically part of city government. Rather, it is an independent, non-profit association of local business owners who volunteer their time and money to work collectively to promote the business community.

It doesn't matter what your industry is, or what business you are in — support is key. That support is most beneficial when it comes from like-minded people in the community who can help you succeed. The Panora Chamber of Commerce is a resource for you and your business.

We currently have more than 60 members of the Panora Chamber of Commerce, and we are continuing to grow. Our mission is to promote the Panora area and maintain a favorable business environment within the existing and future business community.

I am proud to serve as your 2022 president, as is your vice president, Dale Hochreiter, your treasurer, Julie Wykoff, and your secretary, Trudy Hastings.

The Panora Chamber of Commerce facilitates activities and events that focus on business promotion, economic enhancement, tourism and overall promotion of the community and surrounding area. Our events and promotions include:

- Ambassador "Welcome Visits" to new businesses
- Market to Market Relay
- Guthrie County Arts Council - Art in the Village
- Chamber Challenge Golf Tournament
- Annual Easter Egg Hunt
- High School Senior Scholarships
- Community-wide Sidewalk and Garage Sales
- Panorama Days Celebration - First full weekend in August
- Citizen-of-the-Year Award
- Teacher "Welcome" Coffee
- Halloween Haunted Village at Historical Village
- Town Square Park Christmas Lighting
- Breakfast with Santa & Friends and Santa's Workshop

We believe that a healthy business community results in a thriving community, and we want to be your business partner. You can learn more about becoming a member of the Panora Chamber of Commerce by visiting www.panorachamber.org or by calling 641-757-0605. ■

NEW CLINIC NOW OPEN FOR BUSINESS IN PANORA

Grand opening celebration will be March 30.



The new GCH Clinic building in Panora opened for business Jan. 31. It is located on the east edge of Panora and offers many upgrades that were not possible in the previous location near Hometown Foods.



The reception area features a vaulted ceiling and lots of both natural and electrical lighting to make the space inviting.

BY SUSAN THOMPSON
Lake Panorama Times

The new medical clinic building in Panora owned and operated by the Guthrie County Hospital (GCH) opened Jan. 31. Groundbreaking for the new clinic at 103 S.E. 13th St. was April 26, 2021. The 6,800-square-foot clinic is a state-of-the-art facility that includes nine exam rooms, a procedure room, a laboratory space, an X-ray suite, and an educational conference room.

The clinic is staffed by Dr. Josh Strehle and Sara Van Effen, ARNP. There also are two receptionists and two nurses. Strehle and Van Effen are based out of the Panora clinic. Van Effen sometimes helps in other GCH clinics, which are located in Adair and Stuart.

The new clinic in Panora took more than four years of planning. The previous clinic location near Hometown Foods lacked room for expansion, which was needed to effectively offer walk-in and urgent care services, plus increase the number of healthcare professionals to serve patient demand.

"Since joining Guthrie County Hospital almost seven years ago, support from our community has been outstanding," says Strehle. "More and more people have come to trust us with their healthcare, and it became obvious we were outgrowing our space."

"Our clinic staff continually strives to provide excellent patient care, and this new clinic allows us to do that," Strehle says. "We are able to continue to offer on-site limited lab and radiology. The layout improves communication between team members and has larger, more private exam rooms. We are very excited to continue to deliver excellent healthcare to our community from our new space."

Services offered include adult medical services (physicals, acute care, chronic disease management), infant and pediatric medical services, including prenatal care up to 32 weeks of pregnancy, walk-in services, women's health, men's health, immunizations for all ages, X-ray services and laboratory services.

Tina Nourse, GCH director of clinics, says most of these services already were being provided at the former Panora location, but the new location will make it possible to expand services, especially the walk-in clinic, in the future.



An educational conference room is adjacent to the waiting room in the new GCH Clinic. A wall of glass separates it from the waiting room, and a large window on the east keeps both the conference room and waiting area light and bright.

"The level of care provided in our community by the staff at GCH Clinics in Panora is hard to match," says Nourse. "Dr. Strehle and Sara VanEffen, ARNP, along with the clinic staff, strive to bring compassionate, quality health care close to home. The new clinic now matches that level of care by providing a modern facility in the Panora community."

The new building offers space to add another provider, which is being explored. There is a flexible clinical area in the back of the building, which has a separate entrance and could be used for walk-in services and visiting specialists. So far, no definite decisions have been made regarding this space.

The phone number for the new clinic remains the same as the previous location at 641-755-4000. Voicemails can be left afterhours, and a staff member will return calls the next business day. If an emergency, call 911.

In addition to existing patients, the clinic is accepting new patients. To become a new pa-

tient, call the clinic to schedule an appointment. To make the clinic visit quicker, the new patient form on the GCH website (www.guthriecountyhospital.org) can be downloaded and completed to bring to a first appointment, or the form can be completed at the appointment.

The clinic is open Monday through Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Friday 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Walk-in clinic hours are Monday through Friday 7:30-11 a.m., and 9-11 a.m. the third Thursday of each month.

Nourse says the new GCH Clinic in Panora offers an updated, modern facility for patients in the community to receive health care services.

"It was built with patient privacy, safety and quality in mind and will create a medical hub for services in our area," she says. "While the first day open to see patients was Jan. 31, our grand opening celebration will be March 30, which is National Doctors' Day. Please plan to join in the celebration." ■