

The mission of the Chamber of Commerce is to promote progressive community and economic development to benefit Chamber members and the North Iowa region.



## Rental Housing Shortage Plagues Workforce Recruitment

An important component of the *Vision North Iowa Strategic Plan* is the need to increase quality rental housing to assist in workforce attraction efforts. Employers and potential employers looking at North Iowa for expansion projects consider the availability of quality housing to serve their expected workforce, as well as an array of housing choices and amenities to fit employee incomes and lifestyles.

The City of Mason City has commissioned a housing study to help the city make good policy decisions for the future—decisions that will grow the spectrum of housing as well as encourage developers to invest in projects locally. The results of this study are expected soon.

According to the most recent [Cost of Living Index Report](#), Mason City stands out as one of the least expensive cities in the U.S. for apartment rentals. The report shares data gathered for rental rates on a two-bedroom, 950 square foot equivalent apartments during October 2020.

With an average monthly rent of \$550, Mason City ranked third behind Ponca City, OK (\$502) and Kalamazoo, MI (\$534). In contrast, the average rate for a similar-size apartment in Manhattan is \$4,235.

According to Chamber President Robin Anderson, Mason City's ranking may be short-lived. "Last month, we held a ribbon-cutting at The River, a 133-unit new housing development in Downtown Mason City. This complex will impact future reports," Anderson said. "Despite the low rental rates cited in the study, North Iowa continues to suffer from a lack of rental housing stock, which has impacted our region's ability to recruit employees. The early occupancy rate at The River is nearly 70%, which confirms the need for workforce housing. While two-bedroom units at The River start at rates significantly more than the current average, it appears the appetite for housing units with modern amenities such as bike storage and pet-friendly features is strong."

In the 2008 flood, Mason City lost 163 homes that were part of the FEMA Buy-Out. This total was second only to Cedar Rapids in the loss of Iowa housing stock. Further complicating the situation, the price of building materials more than doubled during the pandemic, and natural disasters such as the derecho, hurricanes, and wildfires have caused supply shortages.



Local officials tour one of the Bike Storage rooms at The River apartment complex.



Community Room at The River



City Administrator Aaron Burnett checks out the Dog Grooming room at The River.

**Time:** 4:30-6:30PM

**Date:** Thursday, February 11

**Location:** Southbridge Mall  
(Center Court)  
100 S Federal Ave

**Sponsored By:**



### IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 **From the President**  
See you at the Chamber Bowl!
- 3 **Breaking Glass Leadership Series**  
Ag Breakfast - March 23
- 4 **North Iowa Band Festival**  
Be Our Guest
- 5 **College Connections**  
Leadership North Iowa
- 10 **Band Festival, Sculpture Grants**  
Golf Outing Save the Date
- 11 **Ribbon Cuttings**  
YIELD Project: Prairie Playground
- 12 **Upcoming Events**

## New Members

### 2 ARTISTS LLC

Elisha Marin, Co-Owner  
2 S Adams Ave  
Mason City, IA 50401  
(507) 318-2798  
elisha@elishamar.in

2 Artists LLC is currently renovating the former YWCA into mixed-use residential and artist spaces.

### OFFICE ELEMENTS

Phil Perry, Senior Sales Consultant  
1534 4th St SW  
Mason City, IA 50401  
(641) 423-3551  
info@officeelements.net  
www.officeelements.net

Furniture. Technology. Supplies. Service. Whether your needs are basic or complex, you'll always receive an unrivaled array of quality products and services from Office Elements!

### PAPA MURPHY'S TAKE N BAKE PIZZA

Adam Askildson, Area Supervisor  
1419 4th St SW  
Mason City, IA 50401  
(641) 424-3011  
www.papamurphys.com

Papa Murphy's Take 'N' Bake pizza is the best pizza because we make our dough from scratch, grate our mozzarella, and hand slice our veggies, every day.

### THE BRICK & STYLE COMPANY

Chelsea Duvall, Owner  
103 E State St, Ste 220  
Mason City, IA 50401  
(641) 423-7220  
brickandstyle@outlook.com  
www.brickandstyle.com

A full service Day Spa with a spacious and upscale atmosphere located in the historic downtown Brick and Tile Building.

## From the President

### State of North Iowa Video to Highlight Local Pandemic Response

Last January, the inaugural **State of North Iowa** event was held at the newly-opened Mason City Multipurpose Arena. State and local officials touted the progress being made on the *Vision North Iowa* Strategic Plan initiatives with a focus on:

1. Building a Regional Community
2. People, Place, & Prosperity
3. Innovation & Entrepreneurship
4. Business Development & Marketing

While much work remained, *Vision North Iowa* partners were definitely making progress. And then the pandemic hit.

Thankfully, the relationships that were built as we mapped out the regional strategic plan enabled local leaders to quickly come together to organize our pandemic response. While visitor spending and retail sales took a big hit, most of the private and public capital investment projects under way at the time proceeded.

North Iowans demonstrated their compassion and resilience in so many ways. This year, instead of holding the **State of North Iowa** event, the Chamber is putting together a video to highlight some of the ways North Iowans came together over the past several months to help one another.

While much of the country is divided, we're proud to live in North Iowa where challenges bring out the BEST in us. We'll premiere this video during a special edition of Facebook Live on February 25, and will also release a dashboard citing 2020 strategic plan accomplishments. We hope it makes you feel proud to live in North Iowa.



Robin Anderson  
President & CEO

## See You at the Chamber Bowl!

A few spots remain for the 28th annual **Chamber Bowl** at Mystic Lanes. All necessary precautions will be taken to hold a safe and responsible event. Teams of six will compete for prizes and enjoy boxed dinners from Papa's. The \$200 registration fee includes shoe rental, three games of bowling, and the meal.

**Time:** Registration 3:30PM | Bowling begins at 4PM

**Date:** Tuesday, February 2; Wednesday, February 3; Thursday, February 4

**Makeup date:** Tuesday, February 9

**Location:** Mystic Lanes | 2571 4th St SE, Mason City

Thank you, **Chamber Bowl** Sponsors!



## Breaking Glass Leadership Series - Feb 25

Iowa Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Julie Kenney is the featured speaker for this month's **Breaking Glass Leadership Series**. Scheduled from 8-9:30AM on Thursday, February 25 at the Commerce Center, a virtual option is offered as well.

Julie Kenney grew up on her family's crop and livestock farm. She spent nearly 15 years in the agribusiness industry, serving in marketing and communication roles before being appointed Deputy Secretary of the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship in 2018. Kenney currently owns and operates a corn and soybean farm in Story County. An advocate for Iowa agriculture, she regularly hosts international visitors and media/online influencers at her farm.

**Breaking Glass** offers a unique learning experience to help women stretch their leadership potential, drive their careers with vision and purpose, and make a greater impact within their organizations. Tickets are \$10 for Chamber members, \$20 for non-members. Register online at [www.masoncityia.com](http://www.masoncityia.com) or call 641.423.5724.



Julie Kenney  
Iowa Deputy Secretary  
of Agriculture

Sponsored by:



## Ag Breakfast - March 23

### Features Ag Secretary and Bushel Boy Farms

Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig and Bushel Boy Farms President Chuck Tryon are the headliners for the 39th annual **Ag Breakfast**. The event, which celebrates Ag Week, is scheduled from 7-8:30AM on Tuesday, March 23 at The Music Man Square.

The format has been modified to accommodate physical distancing and safety measures. The much beloved tradition of made-to-order omelets cooked by Agribusiness committee members will be replaced by egg muffins (courtesy of Cargill Protein.) In-person attendance will be limited to 150, and a Zoom webinar link will be provided to participants choosing to attend virtually.

In addition to the keynote speakers, the committee will recognize Century Farms and the Alpha Media "Farmer of the Year."

Tickets are available in books of ten for \$100 for Chamber members and \$120 for non-members, and individual tickets are priced at \$12 each and \$5 each for students. All tickets can be purchased online at [masoncityia.com](http://masoncityia.com) or by calling the Chamber office at 641.423.5724.

A portion of the proceeds from the Ag Breakfast fund a scholarship at NIACC for a student studying AgriBusiness.

Thank you to the 2021 **Ag Breakfast** Sponsors:



Mike Naig  
Iowa Secretary  
of Agriculture



Chuck Tryon  
President,  
Bushel Boy Farms



## Membership Renewals

**Congratulations to the Chamber members celebrating membership anniversaries in February!**

**Seventy Plus Years**  
Floyd & Leonard (77)

**Sixty Plus Years**  
Winston & Byrne, PC (63)

**Forty Plus Years**  
Lea Mobile Glass, Inc. (45)  
Marco (43)  
Mason City By-Products (41)

**Thirty Plus Years**  
Mason City Community School District (37)  
Reagan Outdoor Advertising (35)  
Gordon Flesch Company (34)

**Twenty Plus Years**  
Animal Medical Hospital (29)  
Clausen Plumbing & Heating (29)  
Crisis Intervention Service (29)  
Custom Auto Builders (29)  
Mantronics Mailing Machines (28)  
Lamont Financial Group (24)  
Mason City Foundation/The Music Man Square (23)  
State Farm Insurance - Clint Thomas (21)  
Corporate Farmer, Inc. (20)

**Fifteen Plus Years**  
Globe Siding Insulation & Window Co. (17)  
McQuaid Agency (17)  
Greater Mason City Board of Realtors (16)

**Ten Plus Years**  
First Covenant Church (14)  
Edward Jones - Sara Carlsson, CFP (14)  
Mason City Noon Rotary Club (13)  
Wealth Progression Group (11)  
Bergo Environmental Services (10)

## Membership Renewals (cont.)

### Five Plus Years

Roller City (9)

North Central Mechanical Services  
(9)

Stellar Truck & Trailer (9)

Woodford Lumber & Home (8)

River City Morning Kiwanis (8)

North Iowa Christian School (7)

Shelter Insurance (6)

Pastime Gardens (6)

JT Mudjacking (6)

Billion Ford of Clear Lake (5)

### One Plus Years

Rod Schlader & Susan Rebedeau  
(4)

Andersen's Market (4)

North Iowa Car Electronics (3)

First Presbyterian Church (2)

Alpha Roofing LLC (2)

Hernandez Tree Removal (1)

United States Postal Service (1)

North Iowa 3D (1)

## Be Our Guest

**T**une in Friday mornings to the Chamber "Be Our Guest" program at 8:40AM on KRIB 1490 AM, courtesy of Alpha Media.

Feb 5 | American National Insurance  
Amy Berding

Feb 12 | Gogerty & Associates PLC  
Eric Gogerty

Feb 19 | 2 Artists LLC  
Susanne Crane & Elisha Marin

Feb 26 | The Brick & Style Company  
Chelsea Duvall

## Save the Date: North Iowa Band Festival

**T**he show will go on! This year's **North Iowa Band Festival** is scheduled for Memorial Day Weekend, May 27-31. The committee is still working through the details to hold this event safely, but is committed to celebrating North Iowa's musical heritage...parade and all!

"Band Fest on Broadway" (originally selected for 2020) will remain the theme. Although committee hopes of bringing Hugh Jackman to Mason City to serve as Grand Marshal were dashed with the announcement The Music Man will open on Broadway on May 20, they know he'll be here in spirit!

For Meredith Willson fans interested in attending the Broadway Revival of the musical starring Hugh Jackman as Professor Harold Hill and Sutton Foster as Marian Paroo, preview performances begin on April 7. Last year, Visit Mason City offered a group trip to New York City to see the show on Broadway, before being canceled by the pandemic. Anyone interested in attending this year can contact Visit Mason City (cvb@VisitMasonCityIowa.com) for more information.



### Sponsorship Opportunities

Thank you to those who have donated to help keep this event FREE for the community! Contributions to the **North Iowa Band Festival** Foundation are welcome in any amount. Sponsorships at the following levels receive special benefits and promotional considerations:

\$5,000+	Drum Major
\$2,500-\$4,999	Band Master
\$1,000-\$2,499	Flag Corps

Businesses that provide five or more employees to volunteer during the event receive the benefits of Flag Corps sponsorship.

The following businesses have already committed to the 2021 Festival. Thank you!

### DRUM MAJOR SPONSORS



John K. & Luise V.  
Hanson Foundation

David & Phyllis Murphy  
Charitable Foundation

### BAND MASTER SPONSORS



### FLAG CORPS SPONSORS

Casey's Foundation  
Holiday Inn Express & Suites - Mason City  
MercyOne North Iowa Medical Center  
POET Biorefining - Hanlontown  
REG Mason City, LLC

## College Connections

**C**ollege Connections is gearing up for June to involve summer interns in a program designed to connect young workers to our community and to each other. Each \$100 sponsor may enroll up to 4 interns in the program. If a business does not wish to be a sponsor, the charge per intern enrolled is \$25.

**College Connections** provides a series of social and educational activities on a once-a-week schedule throughout the summer, June 3 - July 29, 2021. Chamber members serve as "Lunch & Learn" speakers on a variety of topics relevant to college students and new graduates. In addition to scheduled social activities, a list of popular area recreational activities is provided.

If businesses decide to limit on-site interns this summer, **College Connections** "toolkits" are a great resource for those working remotely. The detailed toolkits are designed to help interns connect to the community while navigating next steps to completing their college degree. In addition to "adulting" categories, a list of community engagement suggestions is also included.

Registration information will be available soon. Contact the Chamber (chamber@masoncityia.com) with any questions about the internship program.

## Leadership North Iowa

The 2021 **Leadership North Iowa** program is underway! The 25 participants from area businesses are excited to unmask their leadership potential, expand their professional network, and learn more about the North Iowa community. Soon, the class will select a project for community betterment, and this group is sure to make a positive impact on North Iowa.



Thank you to the 2021 Leadership North Iowa Sponsors:



## Video Production

The Chamber offers video production services! Whether a business is looking for a short clip to promote an upcoming event, or a longer video to showcase their business, the Chamber can help.

**PROMOTIONAL VIDEO \$500**  
1:00-2:00 minute video

**PURPOSE:** Promote business, mission statement, recruitment, fundraising campaign, etc.

**CONTENT:** 1:00-2:00 minute video

- Majority video content (shot by contractor)
  - 30-minute maximum filming (includes interview(s) and supplemental footage)
- Script/outline developed by contractor in collaboration with purchaser
  - Recommend 1-3 interview subjects or voiceover/script of 225-450 words

Digital copy provided to purchaser with rights to own/use final video

**SOCIAL MEDIA VIDEO \$250**  
Duration: :30-1:00 minute video

**PURPOSE:** Promote upcoming events, specials, testimonials

**CONTENT:** Up to 1:00 minute

- Photo/video content (video shot by contractor; photos provided by purchaser)
  - 15-minute maximum filming/ interview time
- Script/outline developed by purchaser (may collaborate with contractor)
  - Recommend 1-2 interview subjects or voiceover/script of 75-150 words

Digital copy provided to purchaser with rights to own/use final video

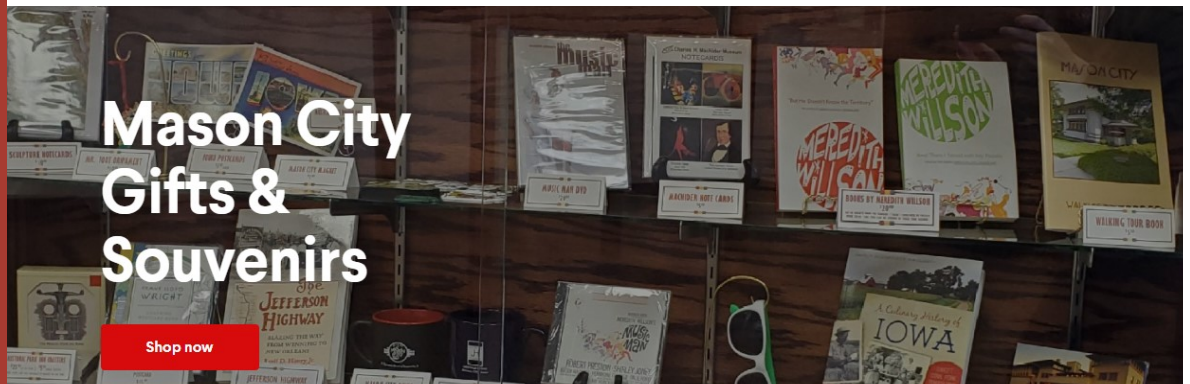
Contact Allyson at 641.423.5724 or akrull@masoncityia.com for more information.



## Visit Mason City launches online store

Visit Mason City has launched an online store featuring Mason City gifts and souvenirs including t-shirts, postcards, coffee mugs, keychains, and more. Visitors and area residents can shop online at <https://visit-mason-city-gift-shop.square.site/>.

As an extension of VMC's physical gift shop, the online store currently offers a selection of the most popular items available at the Mason City Visitor Center. Additional items will be added in the future. At this time, the Visitor Center Gift Shop, located at 2021 4<sup>th</sup> Street SW, is open by appointment. Call 641-422-1663 to learn more.



## Applications open for VMC Board of Directors

The Visit Mason City Board of Directors is currently seeking new board members to join our team. Visit Mason City's mission is to promote tourism and attract visitors to Mason City and North Iowa, resulting in a stronger economy for the area. The VMC Board consists of 13 members who each serve a three (3) year term.

As a member of the VMC Board, you will assist in the following:

- Establish goals and policies;
- Develop and update long range plans of the Bureau;
- Monitor plans, programs, and committees to implement goals, policies and the long range planning;
- Provide for financial stability for the Bureau; and
- Evaluate all phases of the organization and its performance.

Those interested in learning more may contact Lindsey James at 641-422-1663 / [ljames@visitmasoncityiowa.com](mailto:ljames@visitmasoncityiowa.com). More information and the VMC Board Application are available online at <https://visitmasoncityiowa.com/tourism-matters/>.

## Connect with Visit Mason City!



@MasonCityIowa



@VisitMasonCity



@VisitMasonCityIowa



February 2021

## What's Happening In Downtown Mason City!

Main Street Mason City will host our Annual Meeting & Business After Hours event on Thursday, February 11. Please join us in celebration from 4:30-6:30 at Southbridge Mall next to Climb N Crawl Park. Enjoy lite refreshments as we reflect on this past years progress and honor 2020's major contributors.

If you are interested in learning more about downtown Mason City and engaging with the Main Street organization we encourage you to attend! In the coming year, we look forward to bringing new resources, partnerships, and research to the downtown district. 2021 is full of excitement, new projects, opportunities and events!



SPONSORED BY

**MERCY ONE**

**CLIMB N' CRAWL PARK**

Project

**PLATINUM SPONSORS**  
\$10,000+

**MERCY ONE**

**DEANSNYDER CONSTRUCTION**

**ATURA architecture**

**MASON CITY CLINIC**

**GOLD SPONSORS**  
\$5,000 - \$9,999

**LAUREL CITIZENS**

**TNS**

**CENT**

**SILVER SPONSORS**  
\$2,500 - \$4,999

Heartland Asphalt  
Stratford Endowment  
Farrer Endowment  
Kinney-Lindstrom Foundation Inc.  
NIACC Building Trades  
5-2-1-0 Healthy Choices Count

**BRONZE SPONSORS**  
\$1,000 - \$2,499

CL Tel  
Builders FirstSource  
Cade Pleggenkuhle Scholarship  
Bertha Siebens Charitable Trust  
Woodharbor Custom Cabinetry  
Woodford Lumber  
Alliant Energy

Lee Realty  
Gene Kuehn  
Central Park Dentistry  
Splash Multisport & Custom  
Jennings Paint & Decorating  
Metalcraft Inc.  
Cerro Gordo Medical Alliance

**IRON SPONSORS**  
\$500 - \$999

Real Deals  
Philip & Cindy Boender  
Clear Lake Bank & Trust  
James & Linda Coddington  
Matt & Melissa Fabian  
Moorman Clothiers  
Darymple Family  
Floor to Ceiling  
Yohn Co.

J & J Machining  
River City Kiwanis  
NIACC Welding Department  
Rodney Schlader & Susan Rebudeau  
Sandeep & Holly Hinterman-Bhangoo  
Walmart Community Grant Program  
Mason City Noon Kiwanis  
North Iowa Youth Center  
Community Quick Print

**COMPLETED 2020**

Climb N' Crawl Committee: Carol Dettmer, Abigail Lee, Austin Pehl, Susan Rebudeau, Megan Studer **MSMC Executive Director:** Emily Ginneberge





# Corridor

FEBRUARY 2021



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Officers:

**Robert Klocke, Chairman of the Board**  
First Citizens Bank

**Diane Fischels, Vice Chair**  
Mercy Medical Center - North Iowa

**Paul Stevenson, Secretary**  
Clear Lake Bank & Trust

**Scott Smed, Treasurer**  
Bergland + Cram Architects

**Nate Carney, Past Chairman**  
Dean Snyder Construction

### Directors:

**Kent Brcka**  
Henkel Construction

**Collin Davison**  
Heiny Law Firm

**Mark Ebeling**  
City of Clear Lake

**Christy Marchand**  
CFO Systems, LLC

**Marty Mensen**  
Alliant Energy

**Gary Pyle**  
Principal Financial Group

**Dave Versteeg**  
Mason City Community School District

### Ex-Officios:

**Mayor Nelson Crabb**  
City of Clear Lake

**Mayor Bill Schickel**  
City of Mason City

**Supervisor Tim Latham**  
Cerro Gordo County

**Dr. Steven Schulz**  
North Iowa Area Community College

**Aaron Burnett**  
City of Mason City

**Tom Meyer**  
Cerro Gordo County

**Scott Flory**  
City of Clear Lake

## 2020 IN REVIEW: A YEAR OF RESILIENCE

**THE NORTH IOWA CORRIDOR IS DEDICATED TO SUPPORTING THE ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT** of Cerro Gordo County, Mason City, and Clear Lake. This economic snapshot shows a glimpse into some of the key metrics we monitor. While the COVID-19 pandemic has had an undeniable effect on North Iowa, our region has worked together to weather the impact. Unemployment has rebounded in North Iowa at a stronger rate than the state and national average. Project activity has continued throughout 2020 with strong investor interest in North Iowa. Mid-size markets like ours have been attracting investor interest as a stable location to do business; and the low population density, high quality of life, and low cost of living are attractive to the growing numbers of remote workers.

We have been honored to be able to help North Iowa's businesses in every way we can. The Corridor's Small Business Recovery Fund grant was established through the generosity of the Cities of Clear Lake and Mason City, and Cerro Gordo County. We have been proud to see our community pivot, adapt, and strive to overcome the current challenges.

**42,984**  
**CERRO GORDO**  
**POPULATION**

**4.3%**  
**WAGE**  
**TREND**  
2019-2020

### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

**2019** **2.4%** Cerro Gordo  
**3.4%** National  
**2020** **3.2%** Cerro Gordo  
**6.4%** National

**COST OF LIVING**  
**INDEX \***  
**85.3**

14.7% lower than US average  
\*Estimates the relative price levels for consumer goods and services. When applied to wages and salaries, the result is a measure of relative purchasing power

**\$44,226**  
**AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE**  
2020 Q3

### COVID-19 SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

North Iowa Small Business Relief Grant  
**\$450,000 TO 125 AWARDEES**  
Iowa Small Business Relief Grant  
**\$1,347,436 TO 68 AWARDEES**

### EMPLOYMENT SECTORS

 Health Care and Social Assistance  
**5,435** workers

 Retail Trade  
**3,508** workers

 Manufacturing  
**2,843** workers

## 2020 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

### PROJECTS COMPLETED IN 2020

Kraft-Heinz expansion	\$63 million	55 jobs
Bushel Boy new facility	\$40 million	50 jobs
Golden Grain Energy expansion	\$25 million	5 jobs
The River apartments	\$15 million	133 units

### PROJECTS BEGUN IN 2020

Fairfield Inn Marriott Hotel	\$15 million
Mason City School Natatorium/Gym	\$26 million
Clear Lake School Wellness Center	\$18 million
NIACC Solar Array Project	\$6.6 million

**CHAD SCHRECK**  
PRESIDENT & CEO

[cschreck@northiowacorridor.com](mailto:cschreck@northiowacorridor.com)

**SHAUN ARNESON**  
VP, EXISTING BUSINESS & PROJECT

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**JOYCE MARTIN**  
MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

COORDINATOR  
[jmartin@northiowacorridor.com](mailto:jmartin@northiowacorridor.com)



## PAPPAJOHN ENTREPRENEURIAL CENTER

## The Entrepreneurial Edge

*A NIACC John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center Publication*



# Does your small business need special assistance?

The North Iowa Business Help Line has been re-engaged and is being staffed by the NIACC Pappajohn Center and SBDC to provide support to small businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The SBA has renewed the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). This second round of loans is available for small businesses of 300 employees or less. Even those eligible businesses who received loans under the first round may apply through participating lenders.

The NIACC Pappajohn Center and SBDC, plus other community partners, have established a help line for small businesses seeking assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic. The North Iowa Small Business Help Line will have information regarding the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL), and other funding programs.

North Iowa business owners may call

# 641-422-4737

Monday through Friday, 9 am to 4 pm  
or email at

## cares@niacc.edu

More information and resources can be found at

[www.niacc.edu/pappajohn/covid-19-resources-updates/](http://www.niacc.edu/pappajohn/covid-19-resources-updates/)

### Upcoming Events

#### Start Smart Workshop - 2/10

6:00pm - 8:00 pm

Via Zoom

#### Financial Friday Webinar - 2/12

11:00am - 12:00pm

Via Zoom

#### Start Smart Workshop - 2/24

2:00 - 4:00 pm

Via Zoom

#### Financial Friday Webinar - 2/26

11:00am - 12:00pm

Via Zoom

**Register by visiting our website at  
[www.pappajohncenter.com](http://www.pappajohncenter.com)**



[www.pappajohncenter.com](http://www.pappajohncenter.com)  
500 College Drive, Ste 120  
Mason City, IA 50401

## Premier Members

Thank you to the Premier Members who have gone above and beyond in their support of the Chamber programs, events, and the *North Iowa Band Festival*. These members have made commitments to Investor Packages or supported the many events, sponsorships, and marketing opportunities of the Chamber.

### GOLD \$6,000+

Cargill Protein  
Clear Lake Bank & Trust Co.  
CURRIES  
First Citizens Bank  
Holiday Inn Express and Suites -  
Mason City  
Jane Fischer and Associates LLC  
MercyOne North Iowa Medical  
Center  
POET Biorefining - Hanlontown

### SILVER \$3,000-\$5,999

Century 21 Preferred  
REG Mason City, LLC

### BRONZE \$1,000-\$2,999

98.7 Kiss Country / 103.7 The Fox  
/ KIOW 107.3 / KCHA 95.9  
Bergland + Cram Architects  
Dental Center of North Iowa  
Farmers State Bank  
First Security Bank & Trust  
Henkel Construction Co.  
NSB Bank  
SERVPRO of Mason City  
Sukup Manufacturing Co.



## Band Festival, Sculptures Receive Grants

Thanks to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act issued by the federal government, the *North Iowa Band Festival* Foundation and River City Sculptures on Parade, Inc. received grant funding. The Iowa Arts & Culture Recovery Program is supported by Governor Kim Reynolds and is administered through the Iowa Arts Council, a division of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs.

Both organizations used the grants to cover 2020 expenses. These funds provided a boost to both programs, which were financially impacted by the Pandemic. The Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs received 555 requests totaling more than \$37 million from Iowa non-profit arts organizations, businesses, and artists during this funding round, which included \$7 million in available program funding.

**IOWA ARTS COUNCIL**  
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS



The Sculptures on Parade committee intends to take down the current exhibit in late April and install new sculptures in early May, which will remain on display through April 2022. Sculpturewalk participants will again have the opportunity to vote on a "People's Choice" award. The committee expects to include 70 sculptures (permanent and rotating) in the new exhibit.

"Big Flirt" by Christine Knapp is displayed in front of First Citizens Bank in Downtown Mason City.

## Golf Outing - Save the Date

It's time to start thinking about warmer weather! The Chamber *Golf Outing* is scheduled for Thursday, June 17 at Highland Park Golf Course. In the event of rain, an alternate date is set for Tuesday, June 22. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis, so watch for details coming soon on the Chamber's website ([www.masoncityia.com](http://www.masoncityia.com)).

Not a golfer? Sponsor a hole on the course! Participants vote for the best hole sponsor, and the winner will be awarded a complimentary team at next year's outing (plus, bragging rights).

Tournament Sponsor:



## Ribbon Cuttings

**NEW MEMBER**  
**The River**  
**100 4th St SW**



## YIELD Project: Prairie Playground

Thanks to generous donations by more than 40 businesses and community members, the **YIELD** students have reached their financial goal to renovate Prairie Playground in East Park. They are proud to restore a place where they grew up playing and are excited it will be in good condition for future generations to enjoy.

New equipment, including an accessible swing and sand digger, will be ordered this spring. Several repairs and replacements will also be made, including: the sound wall chimes, new mallets for the xylophone, fiber cables to replace broken chains, new end cap for a broken slide, and windows for the tunnels.

In addition to the repairs, students plan to replace the current wood mulch with engineered wood mulch – an ADA approved fall surface – making play safer for children. The entire structure will also receive a facelift with a fresh coat of stain.

While plans are in place, there is still a lot of heavy lifting to be done. The old adage “many hands make light work” is certainly the case with this large-scale project. Students are soliciting volunteers to assist with renovations in early May. Individuals or businesses interested in helping with the project by spreading mulch or staining the wooden structure can contact Allyson at the Chamber ([akrull@masoncityia.com](mailto:akrull@masoncityia.com)). Volunteers will be contacted in the spring with details and dates to participate.



## Wellness

### Healthiest State Initiative



Each year, the Healthiest State Initiative Awards recognize businesses, organizations, and communities that are making strides in promoting healthy living.

Congratulations to MercyOne Family Medicine Forest Park, which is a finalist in the Health Care category! Viewers can watch this year's awards live on February 15 on the Healthiest State Initiative Facebook page.

Previous winners include POET Biorefining – Hanlontown for Workplace Award (small) and the City of Mason City for the Community Award.

The Healthiest State Initiative is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization driven by the goal to make Iowa the healthiest state in the nation. By engaging worksites, communities, schools, retail food, organizations, institutions and individuals, we can inspire Iowans and their communities to improve their health and happiness, and ultimately achieve our goal.



# Chamber Leadership

## Executive Committee

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Jane Fischer, Chair Elect and Community & Membership Division Vice President  
*Jane Fischer & Associates, LLC*  
Tyler Kerr, Past Chairman  
*REG Mason City, LLC*  
Danielle Pace, Treasurer  
*Clear Lake Bank & Trust Co.*  
Bill Phillips, Government Affairs Division Vice President  
*Henkel Construction Company*  
Dr. Steve Schulz, Workforce & Leadership Division Vice President  
*North Iowa Area Community College*  
Jeff Gribben, Small Business Division Vice President  
*First Citizens Bank*

## Board of Directors

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Dr. Noemi Cruz-Orcutt, *Mint Springs Dentistry*  
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Bert Vigen, *Nordic Home Improvements*  
Katie Wold, *Market 124*  
Dan Young, *Young Construction of North Iowa*

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## Upcoming Events

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### Professional Development

Thursday  
**February 25**

**Breaking Glass with Deputy Kenney** | 8-9:30AM  
3rd Floor Event Room, Commerce Center | 9 N Federal Ave  
Virtual option available upon request

### Networking Events

Tuesday-Thursday  
**February 2-4**

**Chamber Bowl** | 3:30PM Registration  
Mystic Lanes | 2571 4th St SE

Thursday  
**February 11**

**Business After Hours** | 4:30-6:30PM  
Hosted by Main Street Mason City  
Southbridge Mall Center Court | 100 S Federal Ave

### Get Involved/Committee Meetings

Tuesday  
**February 2**

**Ambassador Meeting** | Noon-1PM  
3rd Floor Event Room, Commerce Center | Virtual option

Wednesday  
**February 10**

**Agribusiness Committee** | 8-9AM  
3rd Floor Event Room, Commerce Center | Virtual option

**Program Committee** | Noon-1PM  
Zoom Conference Call

Friday  
**February 12**

**North Iowa Band Festival Committee** | Noon-1PM  
3rd Floor Event Room, Commerce Center | Virtual option

Wednesday  
**February 24**

**Board Meeting** | Noon-1PM  
3rd Floor Event Room, Commerce Center | Virtual option

## March 2021

**March 23 | Ag Breakfast at The Music Man Square**