

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



Time: 4:30-6:30PM
Date: Thursday, April 29
Location: Prime N Wine
3000 4th St SW

Sponsored By:



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2021 North Iowa Band Festival Grand Marshal Award



ESSENTIAL WORKERS

The Grand Marshal Award recognizes a person or people of local or national prominence who have made a significant contribution to the development, history, or success of the festival. However, the **North Iowa Band Festival** Committee considered the events of the past year and chose to honor an entire group of people who made a significant contribution to the health and well-being of all North Iowans: Essential Workers.

- Despite the risk, essential workers from every sector kept our local economy moving.
- Front line health care workers continued saving lives.
- Law enforcement kept the community safe.
- First responders stood ready.
- Local care facilities continued providing compassionate care.
- Daycare workers enabled parents to report to their jobs.
- Manufacturing workers kept the lines running.
- Grocery and convenience store clerks were there to serve customers.
- Mail carriers and package delivery services were busier than ever bringing supplies to doorsteps.
- Restaurant workers found new ways to provide meals safely.
- Educators developed new teaching methods.
- Bankers and accountants assisted small businesses with recovery programs.
- And MORE!



Essential Workers are the heroes among us, and they led the way through the worst days of the pandemic. As a tribute to their efforts, representatives from the region's essential workforce will lead the 82nd annual parade, assembling behind the *Banding Together & Marching Forward* banner.



New Members

**HUMAN RESOURCE
ASSOCIATION OF NORTH IOWA**
Chris Hauge, President, 2021
Mason City, IA 50401
(800) 283-7476
hcallanan@northiowacorridor.com
hrani.shrm.org

Whether new to the field or having many years of experience, HRANI is a local starting point for networking, information, professional development & continued support of excellence in Human Resources.

THE CLAUSEN HOUSE
Myron Lupkes, Owner
201 N 5th St
Clear Lake, IA 50428
(641) 425-3700
theclausenhouse@gmail.com
www.vrbo.com/1493407

The Clausen House was built in 1890 and is a great location for families to get together for a vacation in North Iowa. Located downtown just four blocks from the Lake.

IOWA EATZ
Kevin Mahoney, Owner
Mason City, IA 50401
(515) 451-1986
kevin@iowaeatz.com
iowaeatz.com

Iowa EatZ is a multi-restaurant delivery service here in Iowa. Iowa EatZ's #1 priority from Day 1 has been to provide the customer the best experience possible from order placement until the order arrives at the customer's door. Try them once and they guarantee you will never use anyone else for your food delivery needs. Iowa EatZ is extremely proud to be 100% locally owned and operated right here in the great state of Iowa!

From the President

Give Our New United Service a Try!

It's an exciting time at the Mason City Airport. United Airlines (operated by SkyWest Airlines) now offers round trip flights per week to Chicago O'Hare with connections to 211 cities around the globe. Passengers ride in the comfort of a 50-seat regional jet operated by two pilots and a flight attendant and embark and disembark via jet bridge at United Airlines gates in Chicago.

As the threat of the pandemic wanes and travelers begin flying again, it's important for North Iowans to support this new air service option. It's convenient and easy!

- You can use the united.com website or the United app to book flights, check-in, get boarding passes, and find flight status information.
- Check your bags at the point of your originating flight with United, and retrieve them at your final destination.
- United CleanPlus® COVID-19 cleaning standards ensure traveler safety.
- Best of all—save time and money by departing from and returning to Mason City. Parking is FREE at the Mason City Airport.

Granted, I've had a soft spot for our airport ever since I learned the Chamber actually founded the Mason City Municipal Airport back in 1927 with assistance from the local post of the American Legion. Even then, Chamber leadership realized the importance of air travel to the local economy. When I had the privilege of serving on the Airport Commission, I saw first-hand how hard our airport staff work to provide a wonderful experience for local travelers.

Next time you fly, I encourage you to give this new service a try!



Robin Anderson
President & CEO

Breaking Glass Leadership Series - April 8

CJ Warner, President & CEO of Renewable Energy Group (REG), will headline April's **Breaking Glass Leadership Series**. The event, sponsored by First Citizens Bank, will take place from 8:30-10AM on Thursday, April 8 at the Commerce Center. A virtual option is also available for attendees.

For more than 35 years, Warner has held executive positions in the energy sector in operations, business development, strategy, environment, health, and safety. The leader of North America's largest producer of biodiesel and other low-carbon fuels, she was named a *Fortune* 2020 Businessperson of the Year.

In an industry with a 78% male workforce, she is determined to break down gender stereotypes and barriers. Warner argues that policies and practices are needed to ensure that women and other underrepresented groups are engaged and empowered in the workplace.

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 and \$20 for non-members. Register at www.masoncityia.com or by emailing chamber@masoncityia.com.



CJ Warner
REG

Klempnauer Award - Carrie Berg

The Klempnauer Award was named for Dan Klempnauer, a long-time volunteer and festival supporter, and is intended to honor an unsung hero who volunteers for the festival. The **Band Festival** committee selected Carrie Berg in gratitude for her years of service to the Stu Nevermann Memorial Run.

A physical therapist by training, Carrie describes herself first and foremost as a mother to her four children. She is a proponent of health and wellness and has served as Director for the Stu Nevermann Run since 2010.



Carrie Berg

Since taking over as the event's organizer, she has used proceeds from the Stu to sponsor local high school cross country programs, "Running & Reading" programs in Belmond and at Lincoln Intermediate School in Mason City, and the junior cycling team SPIN DEVO.

Carrie played trumpet in the band growing up, but stays busy as a Mohawk Booster Swim Mom; as a trustee for the Mason City Public Library; serving as the Lime Creek Timber Trot race director; helping with reading and math at Hoover and Harding Elementary Schools; and volunteering at the Hawkeye Harvest Food Bank. She still finds time to enjoy gardening, participate in North Iowa Spin and the Master Swim Team workouts, and compete in triathlons.

Carrie puts her heart and soul into organizing "The Stu." She's proud to have increased participation in this four mile run to a field of more than 250 runners. Even more remarkable is the fact that more than 30% of the entrants are under age 18.

Congratulations to Carrie Berg, 2021 Klempnauer Award Honoree!

Band Master Award - Chris Bell



Chris Bell

The Band Master Award originated in 1990 to honor a retiring band master in recognition of outstanding work in the field of music with area youth. This year, the **North Iowa Band Festival** will honor Msaon City native Crystal "Chris" Bell who recently completed a successful 30+ year career teaching instrumental music.

Chris knew she wanted to be a band director in the sixth grade when she was inspired by Mr. J.J. Fitzgerald at Monroe Junior High School. She is a graduate of Wartburg College, where she met her husband Scott, who shares her love of music.

Chris served as a band director at St. Ansgar, Newman Catholic, North Central, West Fork, and Mason City Community Schools. She has worked as an adjudicator with students and other bands in the region and taught trumpet and french horn as an adjunct instructor at NIACC. She continues her role as an educator by helping students with reading at Newman and providing private music lessons.

She plays the trumpet in the New Horizons Band, Mason City Municipal Band, Clear Lake Municipal Band, and the North Iowa Area Community College Band and other engagements in the area. The Bells are parents to three musically-inclined sons, Jason, Eric, and David, and enjoy spending time with their grandchildren. She is a huge Chicago Cubs fan, but nothing surpasses her love for kids!

Congratulations to Chris Bell, this year's Band Master Award recipient!

New Members (cont.)

METROPICS

Tony Wirz, Regional Marketing Manager
1040 Kettle Creek Rd
Eagan, MN 55123
(715) 210-0171
Anthony.Wirz@T-Mobile.com
www.t-mobile.com

T-Mobile is now America's largest and fastest 5G network. They are customer obsessed. It's what inspires them and drives them to look for new ways to keep you connected. T-Mobile is more than just wireless.



Be Our Guest

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

- | | |
|----------|--|
| April 2 | Main Street Mason City
Emily Ginneberge |
| April 9 | Human Resource
Association of North Iowa
Chris Hauge |
| April 16 | Iowa Eatz
Kevin Mahoney |
| April 23 | The Clausen House
Myron Lupkes |
| April 30 | Simply Nourished
Melissa Fabian |

Membership Renewals

Congratulations to the Chamber members celebrating membership anniversaries in April!

Fifty Plus Years

Blazek Electric, Inc. (56)

Forty Plus Years

Casey's General Store (47)

Thirty Plus Years

SKYBLUE by CL Tel (34)

North Iowa Community Credit Union (34)

Fullerton Funeral Home (34)

Heritage Care & Rehabilitation Center (30)

Twenty Plus Years

Heartland Asphalt, Inc. (29)

Brick Furniture (28)

Moorman Clothiers (28)

D & D Printing & Custom Signs (26)

Child & Adult Care Food Program (26)

Green Canopy, Inc. (25)

Slumberland Furniture (25)

Basic Birder (24)

Es-Marc Investments (23)

Fifteen Plus Years

World Wide College of Auctioneering (19)

Comprehensive Systems, Inc. (18)

Main Street Mason City (18)

Pritchard Family Auto Stores (16)

Ten Plus Years

Audibel Hearing Centers of North Iowa (13)

Absolute Waste Removal (11)

Bisbee Income Tax & Accounting Service (10)

Turning Leaf Counseling (10)

Five Plus Years

True Travels, LLC (9)

Masterson Staffing Solutions (9)

Sweet Tooth (8)

Hoover's Hatchery (7)

Mason City Evening Lions (7)

Ag Ventures Alliance (7)

Butcher's Catering (6)

Child & Adolescent Integrated Health (6)

Diamond Oak, LLC dba Diamond Oak Events (6)

"Make It OK" Training - April 22

The Worksite Wellness Committee is hosting a Mental Health Workshop from 10AM-noon on Thursday, April 22. The "Make It OK" Ambassador Training will teach participants how to identify and support people facing mental health illnesses. The session also arms participants with the tools to be an Ambassador and conduct their own "Make It OK" training session in their workplace or community groups.

Healthiest State Initiative Executive Director Jami Haberl is conducting the training at the Commerce Center. The participation fee of \$5 for Chamber members, \$10 for non-members, covers the cost of instructional materials.



Jami Haberl
Healthiest State
Initiative

Make It OK

For more information or to register, contact chamber@masoncityia.com or call 641.423.5724.

Governor Visits Willow Creek Project

Governor Kim Reynolds and Lt. Governor Adam Gregg visited Mason City in March to learn more about the Willow Creek Master Plan. Nicknamed "River City" by Meredith Willson, Mason City is uniquely tied to the waterways that run through it. Although these rivers and streams have historically been viewed as barriers, flood threats, and unkempt, the Willow Creek Redevelopment Plan will turn the riverfront into a community asset.

City officials described the vision for trail and bridge improvements, creative lighting treatments, public art, and gathering spaces to the governor. She emphasized the importance of projects like these to attract and retain the local workforce.

The governor's priorities for the current legislative session include Broadband, Workforce Housing, and Childcare initiatives which provide the foundation for a robust and inclusive workforce. In the future, Gov. Reynolds will add place-making ventures such as the Willow Creek projects to advance Iowa's workforce attraction and retention efforts.



Chamber Welcomes New Hires

The Chamber recently hired two new associates to assist in promoting progressive community and economic development to benefit the North Iowa region. Welcome to the Chamber team!

Mackenzie Dorsey – Program Director

Mackenzie Dorsey joined the Chamber team as the Program Director. In this role, she has responsibility for coordinating and facilitating Chamber events and programs and serves as staff liaison to the Agribusiness, **Band Festival**, Program, and Worksite Wellness committees.

Additionally, she will lead health and well-being activities for the Chamber staff and support the North Iowa's Builder Exchange with events and activities.

Mackenzie holds a Bachelor's degree in strategic public relations from the University of Northern Iowa. Previously, Mackenzie worked as a multi-media sales representative for Lee Enterprises. She grew up in Northwood and moved to Mason City after graduating from college to be closer to her family. In her free time, she enjoys visiting Mason City's Central Park, catching up on local history, painting, and writing.



Mackenzie Dorsey
Program Director

Zoie Papouchis-Service & Operations Associate

Mason City native Zoie Papouchis greets Commerce Center visitors and callers at the Reception Desk. Zoie will administer the quarterly C2ER Cost of Living process, coordinate services to maintain the Commerce Center building and grounds, monitor inventory and supplies, schedule room rentals, and provide administrative assistance to the North Iowa Builders Exchange.

Zoie is a graduate of Mason City High School and is also a graduate of the Chamber's YIELD program. She holds an Associates of Arts degree from NIACC. An accomplished artist with a growing following, Zoie also works as a server at the 1910 Grille. Last summer, she joined the Chamber's team of mural artists and assisted with the murals on the Praise Community Church building and the Beacon building on West State Street.

To share her love of art, Zoie will teach painting classes this summer in Clear Lake. She spends most of her time painting commissioned canvases, and aspires to grow her hobby into a small business. She also enjoys the outdoors and spending quality time with family.



Zoie Papouchis
Service & Operations
Associate

Leadership North Iowa



LNI Students discuss project ideas.



Sheriff Kevin Pals led a tour of the Cerro Gordo County Law Enforcement Center.

Membership Renewals (cont)

Five Plus Years (cont)

Farm Bureau Financial Services -
Trent Adams (6)
Scenic View Auto (5)
Nebulaware, LLC (5)
Dance Arts Centre (5)

One Plus Years

North Iowa Women's Self-Defense
Initiative (4)
Z'Mariks Noodle Cafe (4)
Sukup Manufacturing Co. (3)
Larson Red Zone Sports (3)
North Iowa Fresh, LLC (2)
First Security Bank & Trust (2)
ServiceMaster by Rice (2)

State of North Iowa Video Recap

It's hard to believe it has been a full year since COVID-19's impact began. While the year was full of challenges, North Iowans rose to meet them. On February 25, the Chamber premiered a video highlighting the efforts of businesses and organizations to lead the way through the pandemic. Members of the Chamber Board of Directors and Vision North Iowa executive committee previewed the video and heard from local leaders about the steps taken over the past year and the plans for the future. One highlight was a presentation about the "Digital Economy" and efforts to recruit work-from-home professionals to move to North Iowa.





Grant funds available for sport events



The North Iowa Sports Authority, a partnership between Visit Mason City / Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce, is seeking area coaches, sport event coordinators and sport facility operators interested in learning more about grant funds - up to \$50,000 - for sporting events that attract travelers to Cerro Gordo County.

"We're looking for partners from the sporting community – coaches, travel teams, sports facilities – anyone who's interested in hosting a sport event to contact us to learn more about this grant opportunity and how they may be

able to benefit from this program," said Lindsey James, Executive Director of Visit Mason City.

The variety of sport venues and facilities, combined with the convenience of getting to and around North Iowa bring a great share of visitors and sports participants to the North Iowa Area.

The focus of the North Iowa Sports Authority is to promote sports in Cerro Gordo County by attracting and supporting quality athletic sporting events that generate visitor spending in the area. More specifically, the objective is to attract, retain, and expand area-sporting events that attract visitors to the area and generates visitor spending. A visitor is an individual that lives beyond 90- miles of Cerro Gordo County.

Past recipients of program funding include North Iowa Nationals, Bicycle Blues & BBQ, Cannonball Cross, USDF Region 4 Dressage Championships, Mid States Horse Shows, Jack Helgren Memorial Snowmobile Race, NBHA Iowa District 2 Barrel Races, River City Pool Championships and TRI Clear Lake. Funding is available for events taking place from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. Partner applications for the FY20 program are online at visitmasoncityiowa.com/north-iowa-sports-authority/. Application deadline is May 20, 2021.

For more information about the sports grant program, contact Lindsey James at 641.422.1663 / Ljames@VisitMasonCityIowa.com

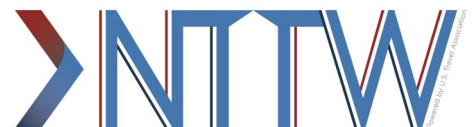
Travel Planning is on the rise

There's cause for optimism these days and it's not simply because the weather is getting nicer by the day. The latest study from Longwoods International was recently released, and there's good news to share: 81% of travelers plan to travel in the next six months, an increase of 16% since mid-January and the highest level since the beginning of the pandemic last March.

With optimism on the rise, the study found that nearly half (49%) of American travelers feel safe traveling outside of their communities, which is back near levels seen late last summer, while 41% of travelers support opening their community to visitors.

When it comes to the vaccine specifically as of early February, 35% of travelers have said they will wait to travel until they receive the vaccine. However, 37% stated that the COVID-19 vaccine has no impact on their travel plans.

Though more travelers are looking ahead and making plans to travel in the future, the influence of COVID-19 is still present. The study found that 35% of travelers would choose a destination they can drive to vs. fly. And while COVID-19 continues to be the main factor impacting people's decisions to travel in the next six months, only 40% said COVID-19 will "greatly impact" their travel plans, an improvement from the mid-January study.



NATIONAL TRAVEL & TOURISM WEEK

MAY 2-8, 2021

MAIN STREET MASON CITY PRESENTS:

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE!



FREE CONCERT • BEER GARDEN • LOCAL FOOD TRUCKS & VENDORS • FAMILY FUN FOR EVERYONE

JUNE 18TH • JULY 16TH
AUGUST 20TH



THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS:



THRIVENT FINANCIAL - TODD LEET, SCHUPICK & ASSOCIATES
HENKEL CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, STATE FARM - KRISTY MARQUIS
NSB BANK



Corridor

APRIL 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

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR 2021

FOUR KEY AREAS OF LEGISLATIVE ACTION DURING THE 2021 SESSION IN IOWA are being followed closely by North Iowa Corridor Economic Development Corporation.

Chad Schreck, NIC President and CEO, points to bills related to Tax Increment Financing (TIF), childcare, housing, and the digitalization of manufacturing as key areas of interest.

North Iowa Corridor (NIC) partners with the Iowa Chamber Alliance (ICA) and Professional Developers of Iowa (PDI) to drive their common priorities at a state level, according to Schreck. The ICA is a non-profit coalition of leading chambers of commerce and economic development corporations in Iowa, including Mason City. PDI is a non-profit organization of over 300 economic development professionals in the state.

TIF - Legislation proposed this session seeks to limit the use of Tax Increment Financing. House Study Bill 194. TIF allows communities to designate future real estate tax increases on a specific district to finance debt for an improvement project. It's designed to help improve a blighted area by attracting private developers or to finance public projects such as a park.

According to PDI, "The bill would limit the lifetime of all new Urban Renewal Areas to 20 years or less, (except market residential, which is limited to ten years), regardless of blight conditions." It advises that this would hamper large capital investment projects, making it difficult for Iowa to compete with other states.

CHILDCARE - Governor Kim Reynolds said recently, "When we remove the obstacles to high-quality, affordable child care, our families can nurture their kids while maintaining maximum freedom to enter and remain in the workforce."

Several bills have been introduced to address childcare needs in Iowa. "Most of the bills filed provide grants, tax credits, and incentives to increase childcare providers and encourage businesses to offer childcare options," according to the ICA.

HOUSING - According to the Governor's Office, "The 2020 Iowa Profile cites cost burdens as the most common housing issue in Iowa. More than 38% of renters and nearly 16% of homeowners are spending more than 30% of their income on housing."

The need for more housing at affordable rates is being addressed on several levels in current legislation. The ICA says "SF295 and HF582 will increase workforce housing tax credits, establish a housing tax credit program, expand redevelopment tax credits, create disaster recovery housing assistance, support main street revitalization efforts, and support the state housing trust fund."

MANUFACTURING 4.0 - The Iowa Economic Development Authority is promoting an Iowa Manufacturing 4.0 Plan, to help the state's manufacturing sector become more competitive through digital technologies. Areas where the IEDA sees digitization improving Iowa industry include interconnectivity, decision support, customization and flexibility, and decentralization.

A House bill proposed to support this effort contains "adjustments to the IEDA tax credit allocations, creation of the Manufacturing 4.0 Technology Fund, a new \$5 million line item funding for tourism, and creation of the Energy Infrastructure Revolving Loan Program," according to PDI.

Anyone with specific items of concern for the 2021 legislative session is encouraged to contact the NIC office in Mason City at (641) 423-0315.

CHAD SCHRECK
PRESIDENT & CEO

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PAPPAJOHN ENTREPRENEURIAL CENTER

The Entrepreneurial Edge

A NIACC John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center Publication



RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY!

AN EXCITING OPPORTUNITY
FOR ANY STUDENT!

2021 Youth Entrepreneurial Academy

Receive a \$500 NIACC Scholarship and
compete for \$500 in seed money

- WHAT** Free Week-Long Summer Entrepreneurship Event
Fun, interesting opportunity to learn about starting your own business
- WHEN** Monday, June 14 – Friday, June 18
- TIME** 8:30 am – 4:00 pm
- WHERE** North Iowa Area Community College
- WHO** Current high school students
- DETAILS** In this free, weeklong summer camp, North Iowa high school students will participate in activities to develop their own business model, hear from local guest speakers, and visit local entrepreneurs. Students will receive gas gift cards for transportation costs. Cerro Gordo Public Health COVID-19 Guidelines will be followed throughout the week.
- APPLY** Applications are available from your guidance counselor or the NIACC John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center website. Applications are due by May 25 or until the academy is full.



April Upcoming Events

Go to our website to register at www.pappajohncenter.com/events

Start Smart Workshops

April 14 & April 28 —6:00-8:00 pm (via Zoom)

PAPPAJOHN CENTER STAFF

Tim Putnam, Director
 Brook Boehmler, SBDC Director
 Candi Karsjens, Innovation and Acceleration Director
 Kelley O'Rourke, School Partnership Entrepreneurial Coordinator
 Joyce Martin, Marketing & Communications Coordinator
 Mary Spitz, Administrative Assistant-Pappajohn & SBDC



www.niacc.edu/pappajohn
 500 College Drive, Ste. 120
 Mason City, IA 50401

Visit us online @ www.niacc.edu/pappajohn
 1-888-GO-NIACC or 641-422-4111

"NIACC does not discriminate in employment or education. See <http://www.niacc.edu/about/non-discrimination-statement/> for additional information."

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*.

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
Diamond Jo Casino - Worth County
REG Mason City, LLC

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

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

YIELD Project

YIELD students are eager to get to work on the renovations at Prairie Playground this spring. While some updates such as equipment repairs and replacements have been made, the heavy lifting will come in May.

Students are seeking volunteers to assist with staining the structure and with mulching. Work days and times will be announced in April. If individuals or businesses are interested in volunteering, please contact Allyson at the Chamber for additional details (641.423.5724 or akrull@masoncityia.com).



Golf Outing - June 18

Spring is here and it's time to dust off those clubs! The Chamber's most popular summer networking event – the 2021 **Golf Outing** – is just around the corner! This year's tournament is scheduled for Thursday, June 17 at Highland Park Golf Course, with a shotgun start at 9AM. Lunch, dinner, and greens fees are included with registration and taken on a first-come, first-served basis.

Hole sponsorships are available for \$350. Golfers will have the opportunity to vote on the best hole sponsor, and the sponsor with the most votes will be awarded a complimentary team at next year's outing!



In the event of rain, an alternate date has been set for Tuesday, June 22.

To register as team or sponsor a hole, complete and return the form enclosed in this newsletter or contact Mackenzie at mdorsey@masoncityia.com.

Tournament
Sponsor:



College Connections

College Connections, the Chamber's intern networking program, provides a series of social and educational activities for young hires on a once-a-week schedule throughout the summer. This year's sessions will take place weekly on Tuesdays, starting June 1 and running through July 27. Interns learn about personality styles, managing credit, evaluating cost of living, and more. In addition to the scheduled meetings, a list of popular area recreational activities is provided to participants to explore on their own time.

Businesses are encouraged to enroll summer interns in this program to help connect young workers to the community and to each other. Each \$100 sponsor of this program may register up to 5 interns in the program. If a business does not wish to be a sponsor, the cost per intern is \$25. Contact Mackenzie to register (mdorsey@masoncityia.com).

Community Profile Magazine



Michael Holmes

The Chamber's bi-annual Community Profile magazine was put on hold last year due to the pandemic, but will be moving forward for a new edition to be published in late fall. This publication is popular among members, local businesses, and residents of North Iowa.

Project Manager Michael Holmes from Town Square Publications is back working with the Chamber to bring great advertising opportunities to businesses – with all ad rates remaining the same as previous editions. He will only be in North Iowa for a limited number of days beginning in early April and will be in touch to set up appointments with Chamber member businesses for this great marketing opportunity!

Ribbon Cutting

Mason City Municipal Airport –
SkyWest Airlines
9184 265th St, Clear Lake



CEO Conversations



Michael Davis, Administrator at IOOF Home & Community Therapy Center, led **CEO Conversations** in March.

"Right is right and wrong is wrong. That's the easy part. The hard part is when people tell you that you don't know what you're talking about. Just don't doubt yourself. And along the way, surround yourself with a team of positive people in your life so you don't let the negativity get to you." - Michael Davis

39th Annual Ag Breakfast Recap

It was the first event cancelled in 2020 due to the pandemic, which is why the Agribusiness committee was grateful to host a successful hybrid **Ag Breakfast** on March 23. Attendees enjoyed individual egg quiches from Cargill and heard from keynote speakers Chuck Tryon, CEO of Bushel Boy Farms; and Mike Naig, Iowa's Secretary of Agriculture.

Thank you to the volunteers and to the Ag Breakfast sponsors 98.7 KISS Country/103.7 The Fox, First Security Bank, Holiday Inn Express & Suites, and Iowa Corn.



Iowa Secretary of Agriculture
Mike Naig



Attendees enjoyed crustless quiche
donated by Cargill Protein



Chuck Tryon,
Bushel Boy Farms

Wellness

Event Guidelines from
CG Public Health



The Chamber is starting to host in-person events with modifications, and many businesses are interested in having employees attend events or hosting an event themselves.

Cerro Gordo Public Health released the following guidance for event organizers and attendees to promote a safe event:

- People who are over 65 years of age, have underlying health conditions, or are pregnant should not attend large gatherings/events
- Face masks should be required for all attendees, even those fully vaccinated against COVID-19
- Individuals should stay home if they are feeling sick with symptoms of COVID-19
- A schedule should be in place for increased cleaning and disinfection
- Attendance should be limited and adjustments made to the layout to encourage physical distancing
- An administrator should be designated to be responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns

The full guidance is available at the Chamber's website, masoncityia.com.



Chamber Leadership

Executive Committee

Andy Meyer, Chairman of the Board
Bergland+Cram Architects
Jane Fischer, Chair Elect and Community & Membership Division Vice President
Jane Fischer & Associates, LLC
Tyler Kerr, Past Chairman
REG Mason City, LLC
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Upcoming Events

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Professional Development

Thursday
April 8

Breaking Glass | 8:30AM-10AM
3rd Floor Event Room, Commerce Center | Virtual option

Thursday
April 22

"Make It OK" Training | 10AM-Noon
3rd Floor Event Room, Commerce Center | Virtual option

Networking Events

Thursday
April 29

Business After Hours | 4:30-6:30PM
Hosted by Mason City Noon Rotary & Prime N Wine
Prime N Wine | 3000 4th St SW

Get Involved/Committee Meetings

Tuesday
April 6

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

Friday
April 9

North Iowa Band Festival Committee | Noon-1PM
Band Festival Room, Commerce Center | Virtual option

Wednesday
April 14

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

Program Committee | Noon-1PM
Zoom Conference Call

Tuesday
April 20

Wellness Committee | 3-4PM
Board Room, Commerce Center | Virtual option

Wednesday
April 28

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

May 2021

May 27-31 | **82nd Annual North Iowa Band Festival**