

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: 4-6PM * New Time*

Date: Thursday, September 23

Location: 601 S Illinois Ave

Sponsored By:

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach

Thank you to 98.7 KISS Country/103.7 The Fox for highlighting Business After Hours on its stations!

IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 From the President
Chamber Board Leadership
- 3 Breaking Glass - September 9
Welcome to the Chamber Team
- 4 Chamber Staff Appointed to State
Boards
Greece Trip Info Session
- 5 Leadership North Iowa 2022
October Breaking Glass Session
CEO Conversations
- 10 CMO Card 2022
Last Call for Verification Forms
Thank You Alliant and RAKA
- 11 Ribbon Cuttings
YIELD Sponsorships
Ag Tour
- 12 Upcoming Events

Chamber Cup - September 16

The **Chamber Cup** is an adult field day and team-building competition like no other. This half-day event, scheduled from 1-4PM on Thursday, September 16 in Central Park, features new events for teams to enjoy!

Businesses may enter teams of four people to compete in a variety of contests and relays. Challenges include a Hula Hoop Competition, High Heel Race, Office Chair Racing, and the newly added Dodgeball tournament, to name a few. Events will vary in skill set, but do not require athleticism. It's all about having fun!

Once registered, an official team rulebook, scoring guidelines, and waiver will be sent to the team captain. Each team will also receive a set of matching bandanas to be easily identified on the course. Matching uniforms are encouraged and will earn extra points!

The fee for a team is \$100. To register, scan the QR code or contact Noah Harris at the Chamber (641.423.5724 or nharris@masoncityia.com).



FIRST CITIZENS
Gold Sponsor

Annual Meeting - October 7

The 105th **Annual Meeting** will be a special one - taking place from 3-5PM on Thursday, October 7 at the newly constructed Principal Performing Arts Pavilion on Mason City's downtown plaza. Attendees will enjoy live music, refreshments, and the opportunity to recognize the best of North Iowa business.

In addition to the opportunity to experience a new venue that is integral to the repurpose of Mason City's downtown mall, attendees will help to honor this year's *Business of the Year*, *Boss of the Year*, *Workplace Wellness* awardee, and *Distinguished Citizen*.

Tickets are \$25 and are available on the website (masoncityia.com) or by contacting the Chamber.

Sponsors:



New Member

AVION AZUL

Catarino Martinez, Owner
9184 265th St
Clear Lake, IA 50428
(641) 357-2626
avionazulcantina@gmail.com

At Avion Azul, enjoy craft margaritas, tableside guacamole, fresh Mexican food, and warm hospitality along with airport views and accessibility.

THE BIG WING GROUP

John Kalousek, President
8 Boulder Rd
Mason City, IA 50401
(641) 251-0125
larry.kalousek@bigwinggroup.com

The Big Wing Group was established in 2014; specializing in planning, architecture, and real property development.

HEALTHY STRIDES

Stephanie Tesch, Health and Wellness Coach
636 S Monroe Ave
Mason City, IA 50401
(641) 530-7937
stesch381@gmail.com

Healthy Strides offers amazing protein shakes and energy drinks. They have more than 100 shake flavors to choose from. There is something for everyone!

SOO GREEN

Raj Rajan, Vice President - Project Development
1600 Utica Ave S, 9th Floor
St. Louis Park, MN 55416
(585) 738-0429
rrajan@directconnect-dc.com
www.soogreenrr.com

The SOO Green HVDC Link is a 350-mile 2,100 MW, 525KV underground high-voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission line running along existing rail corridors from Iowa to Illinois.

From the President

Let's Keep North Iowa Open for Business

As I review this week's statistics documenting the alarming surge in COVID-19 cases, I'm worried. Hospitalizations with a primary diagnosis of COVID are rising, and the vast majority of those patients are not vaccinated.

...and I'm sad, because a growing number of children age 1-11 are hospitalized with a primary diagnosis of COVID. Currently, this age group is not eligible for the vaccine, so they're counting on adults to keep them safe. Locally, our vaccination rate is better than state averages, but it's not enough. In our workforce (ages 18-64) 63.2% of us are fully vaccinated. Unfortunately, that rate falls short of "herd immunity" levels, which is our best hope to protect children.

Our businesses NEED a healthy workforce more than ever before. Many businesses already are taking drastic measures due to staffing shortages. It isn't a matter of paying higher wages. We simply don't have enough workers. Public health impacts economic health.

I understand the importance of American freedoms. But I also hold dear the U.S. Constitution which pledges to "promote the general welfare" of our citizens. Now is the time to do what North Iowans do best—pull together and take care of each other. The FDA-approved vaccine is our best shot at beating this beast.



Robin Anderson
President & CEO

2021-22 Chamber Board Leadership

The Chamber Board elected the following slate to serve the organization in leadership roles for the 2021-22 year. They will officially begin their duties following the **Annual Meeting** on October 7.



Jane Fischer
Chairperson of the Board
Jane Fischer & Associates



Andy Meyer
Past Chairperson
Bergland+Cram Architects



Evan Raulie
Chair-Elect
Smithfield



Danielle Pace
Treasurer
Clear Lake Bank & Trust Co.



Jeff Gribben
DVP Small Business
First Citizens Bank



Jessica Tierney
DVP Workforce
Tierney Properties



Bill Phillips
DVP Government Affairs
Henkel Construction Co.



Todd Leet
DVP Community & Membership
Todd Leet - Thrivent Financial

Breaking Glass - September 9

September's **Breaking Glass Leadership Series** session, sponsored by Bergland + Cram Architects, features Dr. Tonya Gray, family medicine physician practicing in Mason City.

Dr. Gray grew up on a hog and grain farm in Titonka, Iowa, and graduated as valedictorian of the North Iowa High School in Buffalo Center in 1990. She then went on to attend the University of Iowa for her undergraduate degree, as well as medical school. Completing her residency at Beaumont Hospital in Troy, MI, Dr. Gray and her husband then moved to Michigan and Oklahoma where she practiced medicine. Dr. Gray moved back to Mason City in 2004, working and raising three children. She is board certified in Family Medicine, Obesity Medicine, and has a certificate in Travel Medicine. She is currently the Chair of the Department of Family Medicine at MercyOne North Iowa and Medical Director and a Board Member of CG Public Health. Dr. Gray farms with her parents and husband, while also managing rental properties. She is a beekeeper, weather spotter with the National Weather Service, a Master Gardener, and Master Conservation intern.

Dr. Gray will share her experiences breaking the glass ceiling as a woman in healthcare at 8:30AM on Thursday, September 9 at the Commerce Center (9 N Federal Ave).

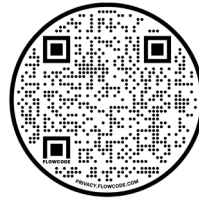


Tonya Gray, MD
Family Medicine
MercyOne North Iowa

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. Contact Noah Harris at nharris@masoncityia.com, scan the QR code, or call the Chamber (641.423.5724) to register.

Sponsored by:



Welcome to the Chamber Team

Noah Harris accepted the permanent role as Program Director effective September 1. Noah served as Interim Program Director since April. In this role, he 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, he will assist as a teammate in the Chamber's community and economic development mission and lead health and well-being activities for the Chamber staff. Noah will also support the North Iowa's Builder Exchange with events and activities.

Noah holds a Bachelor's degree in Strategic Public Relations from the University of Northern Iowa. He is a Mason City native and a graduate of Mason City High School. Recently engaged, Noah and his fiancée enjoy music and spending time with their Huskies.



Noah Harris
Program Director

Membership Renewals

Congratulations to the Chamber members celebrating membership anniversaries in September!

Seventy Plus Years

Cerro Gordo Abstract Company (78)

Midland Concrete Products (71)

Sixty Plus Years

Graham Tire Co. (69)

Fifty Plus Years

Schukei Chevrolet (56)

Forty Plus Years

Mason City Ford Chrysler (41)

Hogan - Hansen, P.C. (40)

Principal Financial Group - Pension Center (40)

Thirty Plus Years

Mason City Community Theatre (39)

Air Care, Inc. (37)

Askeland & Zirbel, CPAs (36)

Wal-Mart SuperCenter (36)

Wells Fargo Advisors (35)

Charlie Brown Preschool and Child Care (35)

Four Oaks of Iowa (32)

Mason City Clinic (32)

American Cancer Society (31)

MercyOne North Iowa Hospice (31)

City Center & Kent Apartments (31)

Charles H. MacNider Art Museum (31)

Floor to Ceiling Store (30)

Twenty Plus Years

Brown's Shoe Fit Co. (29)

Grunwald & Kiger Fine Jewelers (29)

Boy Scouts of America-Winnebago Council (28)

Papa's American Cafe (28)

Benchmark Agribusiness, Inc. (27)

Wendy's (27)

Membership Renewals (cont.)

Twenty Plus Years (cont.)

First Citizens Bank (26)
North Iowa Area Council of
Governments (26)
Robinson Farm Real Estate (25)
Federal Express (25)
Helena Agri-Enterprises (24)
Community Kitchen of North Iowa,
Inc. (24)
Riddles Jewelry (23)
Veenstra & Kimm, Inc. (21)
Stebens Children's Theatre (21)
Thrivent - Alyse Hesley (21)
LifeServe Blood Center (20)
FOX 47 KXLT, KTTC/NBC, KWWL/
NBC Waterloo, CW, MeTV and H&I
(20)

Fifteen Plus Years

Mike Korthals OD (17)
Amish Heirlooms (17)
Diamond Jo Casino - Worth Co. (16)
OmniTel Communications (15)

Ten Plus Years

Surf Ballroom & Museum (13)
American Realty & Management
Inc. (11)
Mason City Red Power, Inc. (10)

Five Plus Years

Visit Mason City (9)
St. John's Episcopal Church (7)
North Iowa Cooperative (7)
First Congregational United Church
of Christ (7)
Mint Springs Dentistry (6)
MC Home Inspections (6)
Prime N Wine (6)
Mason City Earth Day (5)
Thai Bistro (5)

One Plus Years

Exchange Club of Mason City (4)
Market 124 (4)
Medical Associates Health Plans (4)
My Fair Trade (2)
North Iowa Cleaning (2)
Aquarius Tax & Bookkeeping (1)
Plain Ol' Pumpkins (1)

Chamber Staff Appointed to State Boards

Governor Kim Reynolds tapped two Chamber staff members to fill openings on state advisory boards.

President & CEO Robin Anderson began serving on the Iowa Arts Council last month. The Iowa Arts Council empowers Iowa to build and sustain culturally vibrant communities by cultivating creativity, learning and participation in the arts. Established in 1967, the arts council serves as the state's arts agency and works in collaboration with its federal agency partner, the National Endowment for the Arts, and regional arts partner, Arts Midwest, to build the capacity of Iowa's arts ecosystem.



Robin Anderson
President & CEO



Allyson Krull
Marketing & Leadership
Development Director

The governor appointed Marketing & Leadership Development Director Allyson Krull to the North Central Regional STEM Advisory Board. Iowa faces workforce shortages at every skill level. The state's STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) initiative is tasked with ensuring Iowa's students are career-ready graduates and life-ready citizens.

Greece Trip Info Session - Sept 29

Greece is open for travelers! The Chamber's Global Familiarization program will host an 11-day, 9-night adventure to Greece and the beautiful island of Santorini, March 25-April 4, 2022!

To learn more about the trip, register for the informational webinar at **noon on Wednesday, September 29**. Contact Allyson (akrull@masoncityia.com | 641.423.5724) for details.

Trip cost: \$3,998* per person + taxes (double occupancy)

- International round-trip airfare from Minneapolis (MSP)
- Transportation and beachfront hotel accommodations
- English-speaking tour director & sightseeing fees
- 20 Meals: 7 Breakfasts, 6 Lunches, 7 Dinners, nightly cocktails

Trip Highlights:

- City tour of Athens, including the Acropolis & tour of the Acropolis Museum
- Crossing Corinth Canal
- Full-day excursion to ancient sites and mountainside villages of the Peloponnese Peninsula
- Ancient Theater of Epidaurus, Archaeological site of Mycenae, Venetian town of Nafplion
- Oracle & Museum of Delphi (optional tour)
- Archaeological site of Olympia, Temples of Hera and Zeus (optional)
- Cultural connections, in-depth learning on the local economy and social systems
- Interaction with locals such as olive oil tasting at a local farm and sampling of the traditional Greek aperitif Ouzo
- Two days on the beautiful island of Santorini



Leadership North Iowa 2022

Leadership North Iowa (LNI) 2022 is set to begin in January for its 39th consecutive year. The Chamber's well-known leadership program continues to develop future leaders in North Iowa. **LNI** participants learn lifelong skills and are able to connect with both emerging and established leaders in the region. Employers find **LNI** graduates are more engaged in their community, have a greater appreciation of North Iowa, and are more committed to staying in the area after completing the program.

TUITION

Tuition for **LNI** is \$395 for Chamber members or \$500 for non-members, and includes \$50 toward a service club membership of choice, instruction fees, study materials, refreshments, and graduation reception. Tuition may be paid by the employer, sponsoring organizations, or by the participant.

TIME COMMITMENT

To receive full value **LNI** offers, each participant is expected to attend class sessions held each Thursday from January 13 - March 31, and a graduation ceremony on April 7. Class times vary, however, most sessions are 2-3 hours during the workday.

REGISTRATION

Registration is now open! Due to limited enrollment, applicants are encouraged to register soon to ensure acceptance into the program. Registration forms can be downloaded at masoncityia.com or contact Allyson Krull at the Chamber (akrull@masoncityia.com | 641.423.5724).



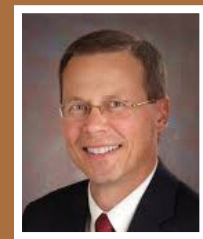
CEO Conversations

Save the Date for November's **CEO Conversations** session featuring **Dr. Steve Schulz, President of North Iowa Area Community College.**

The session is set for **11:30AM – 1PM on Thursday, November 4** at the **Commerce Center.**

This educational series features well-recognized CEOs in a small group gathering where participants can glean sage advice to further their careers.

Contact Noah for more information or to register (nharris@masoncityia.com).



Dr. Steve Schulz
President
NIACC

October Breaking Glass Session



Dr. Wendy Wintersteen
President
Iowa State University

October's **Breaking Glass Leadership Series** features Iowa State University President Wendy Wintersteen. This session, sponsored by Clear Lake Bank & Trust, is from 8:30-10AM on Thursday, October 14 at the Commerce Center.

Dr. Wendy Wintersteen became the 16th president of Iowa State University 2017. The first woman to hold the university's highest office, Dr. Wintersteen has served Iowa State for more than 40 years in several capacities. As president, Dr. Wintersteen is advancing Iowa State University for the 21st century with priorities focused on enhancing student success; recruiting and retaining excellent faculty and staff; strengthening research excellence; establishing a vibrant innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystem

that supports new businesses and economic growth; cultivating a welcoming and inclusive campus environment; and growing state and private support for the university, its faculty, staff, and students.

Tickets are \$10 for Chamber members and \$20 for non-members. Contact Noah Harris at nharris@masoncityia.com or call the Chamber at 641-423-5724 to register.

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.

September 3	Avion Azul Catario Martinez
September 10	Healthy Strides Allen Anderson
September 17	SOO Green Raj Rajan
September 24	The Big Wing Group Larry Kalousek



WANTED: Hospitality Workforce

Free employer presentation scheduled for September 28th

Following a year of shutdowns and uncertainty due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the local hospitality industry is showing strong signs of rebound. Data is projecting that hospitality and tourism need for labor continues to grow. In fact, growth between now and 2028 is anticipated at up to 14%. However, ongoing labor shortages are negatively impacting local hospitality businesses and slowing down post-COVID recovery.

In an effort to address these challenges, Visit Mason City is teaming up with Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services (IVRS) to identify potential opportunities and solutions for local employers. Area businesses are invited to join us on September 28th to learn about options and programs available to expand your workforce, develop a pipeline of talent and fill the labor gap. During this presentation, attendees will learn about opportunities to partner with high school students, work-based learning opportunities as well as externship programs. Register online at www.VisitMasonCityIowa.com/tourism-partners



**IVRS EMPLOYER PRESENTATION
September 28, 2021**

at The Music Man Square in Mason City
TWO SESSIONS: 9 AM & 1:30 PM

>> REGISTER ONLINE
or by calling VMC at 641.422.1663



VMC has teamed up with Main Street Mason City to host a brewery-to-brewery-to-brewery bike ride from Mason City to Clear Lake (and back) on Saturday, September 25th. Learn more at www.mainstreetmasoncity.com

REMINDER:

ROUND 1 APPLICATIONS for the VMC Tourism Marketing Grant Program are due by 4 PM on October 1, 2021! www.visitmasoncityiowa.com

Live. Love. Local.

Restaurant Week

September 12 - 18, 2021

Mason City, IA





Corridor

SEPTEMBER 2021

UPDATES IN THE VISION FOR NORTH IOWA

VISION NORTH IOWA IS A PARTNERSHIP between the North Iowa Corridor Economic Development Corporation, the Mason City Chamber of Commerce, and Clear Lake Chamber of Commerce, plus a host of local partner organizations and stakeholders. In 2018, the group unveiled the Vision North Iowa Regional Prosperity Strategy. Today in 2021, the Vision North Iowa partners continue forward with the plan's purpose statement: Working together to improve the lives of all North Iowans.

"That is the key ambition behind the whole thing," said Chad Schreck, North Iowa Corridor President and CEO. "Everything we've been talking about is all about making life better for the people who live here. It gets to the heart of what we're trying to do."

The Regional Prosperity Strategy is a five-year plan based on extensive research conducted on the data, opinions, and analysis about the current status of North Iowa's economy and quality of life, as well as residents' dreams for the future of the region. Based on these findings, the finished plan identifies four main goals, with detailed strategies to accomplish them:

Building a Regional Community - Establish a regional mindset that unifies North Iowans around a common vision.

People, Place, and Prosperity - Create an environment that retains, equips, and attracts a strong, diverse talent pipeline and increases prosperity for all North Iowans.

Innovation and Entrepreneurship - Advance the regional economy by retaining, expanding, and attracting high-growth companies. Leverage existing assets to strengthen the culture of entrepreneurship and expand the innovation ecosystem.

Business Development and Marketing - Ensure smart, sustainable, and shared economic growth by strategically promoting the region as a destination for business investment, relocation, and expansion.

"It's really all been about engagement and inclusion," Schreck said. "We had public participation, input workshops, and a survey process in order to put the Vision North Iowa strategy together. A key plan for moving forward is to continue this component of building community."

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, North Iowa saw visible economic gains - 2.2% increase in job growth (2017-18), a 1.3% increase in employment year over a year, a 20% increase in GDP to \$2.47 billion (between 2014-18), enrollment increases in the Clear Lake and Mason City High Schools, 83 new business starts and 357 new jobs created thanks to the NIACC Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center, and over \$319 million dollars in capital investment being plugged into projects, like the River City Renaissance and its spin-off projects.

When the pandemic hit North Iowa, the partnerships and collaboration between organizations provided an existing framework to share resources and strategies to lessen the pandemic's economic impact. Now as we move through the economic impact, we see renewed economic and social momentum with numerous positive projects completed or underway: the completion of The River Apartments in Mason City; construction start-up for the Mason City Natatorium/Gym, Clear Lake School Wellness Center, Fairfield by Marriott hotel in Clear Lake, and NIACC solar array project; and expansions at Kraft Heinz, Bushel Boy Farms, and Golden Grain Energy, among others.

The goal of the Vision North Iowa partners moving forward is to build on this momentum, making adjustments to our strategies to meet the needs of our community and businesses in light of the changes brought on by the pandemic. New emphasis on the Digital Economy and building the talent pipeline to help our businesses meet their workforce needs both now and into the future as our work and personal lives rely more heavily on technology is essential to our region staying competitive in the regional, national, and global economy. We are committed to living up to our mission to improve the lives of all North Iowans.

INVESTOR FORUM

Friday, September 3rd, 8am-9am

This informal event will be held **via Zoom** and provides Investors and Partners of the North Iowa Corridor the opportunity to receive a brief update from Corridor President & CEO Chad Schreck and staff on Corridor activities throughout the region, recent projects and prospects for growth.

Following the brief presentation, Investors and Partners are invited to ask questions, make suggestions, and engage in dialogue about how to advance community and economic development in the North Iowa Corridor.

Register at <https://bit.ly/edc-forum> or contact admin@northiowacorridor.com for more information.

CHAD SCHRECK

PRESIDENT & CEO

cschreck@northiowacorridor.com

SHAUN ARNESON

VP, EXISTING BUSINESS & PROJECT
MANAGEMENT

sarneson@northiowacorridor.com

HUNTER CALLANAN

WORKFORCE SPECIALIST

hcallanan@northiowacorridor.com

JOYCE MARTIN

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS
COORDINATOR

jmartin@northiowacorridor.com



The Entrepreneurial Edge

Take Your Business to the Next Level with Venture School

Applications Being Accepted for the Fall Cohort



UNIVERSITY OF IOWA'S VENTURE SCHOOL

“

In Venture School I gained understanding into my market opportunity and how to create and deliver value that my customers want and need.

- Zack Smith, Stock Cropper LLC, Lake Mills

”

IOWA

John Pappajohn
Entrepreneurial Center



Master the startup process with this innovative program focused on real-world experimentation, customer discovery and Lean LaunchPad methodologies. **Venture School**, the state of Iowa's premiere entrepreneurial training program, will help you increase your likelihood for success while reducing the risk of starting your business. Venture School has helped guide over 250 teams across Iowa. While Venture School is designed primarily for start-ups, it also has value for non-profits and businesses looking to introduce a new product or to expand into new territories. Contact the NIACC Pappajohn Center at 641-422-4111 or pappajohn@niacc.edu.

Upcoming Events

Start Smart Workshops

September 8: 6:00—8:00 pm; Zoom Online Session

September 22: 6:00—8:00 pm; Zoom Online Session

TechTalk North Iowa

September 28: 5:00-7:00 pm at Lake Time Brewing

Go to our website to register <http://pappajohncenter.com/programs-events/start-smart/>



www.pappajohncenter.com
500 College Drive, Ste 120
Mason City, IA 50401



Membership Directory

Increase your exposure to the North Iowa Business Community by advertising in the Chamber's annual "North Iowa's Best Businesses" Membership Directory! The directory will include all Chamber members in alphabetical order and by business category.

A minimum of 800 copies will be distributed, and all Chamber members will receive a free directory during *Operation Thank You* in December. Directories are also distributed in relocation packages and membership packets.

Please contact Allyson via phone at 641.423.5724 or email at akrull@masoncityia.com by September 30 to place an advertisement.

New Member Luncheon

Thank you to those who were able to join the Chamber for the recent *New Member Luncheon*! This year, Martin-Brower sponsored the event. It was an excellent way for new members and representatives to learn more about the Chamber and each other.

If you missed the luncheon, contact Colleen to schedule a one-on-one refresher of your membership benefits. (cfrein@masoncityia.com | 641.423.5724)



CMO Card 2022

It's not every day a business gets the opportunity to be prominently placed in front of 14,000+ people! Chamber members are encouraged to call now to reserve a space on the 2022 **CMO (Chamber Members Only)** Card. This is a great opportunity for members to advertise their services and encourage each other to shop with a Chamber member first.

For only \$50, businesses can purchase a "square" to showcase a special deal reserved for Chamber Members Only. The discount will also be placed on a rotating basis in the weekly *Chamber News* emails and listed under "Hot Deals" on the Chamber website. Talk about getting a lot of bang for your buck!



CMO Cards are distributed to all Chamber member employees in December during *Operation Thank You* - a special day we reserve to THANK our members for their loyalty in person. If an employee would like to purchase additional cards for their family, the fee is only \$5 per card.

Because of the nature of the card, this offer is limited to just 45 businesses. Call Colleen Frein at the Chamber or email cfrein@masoncityia.com to reserve a spot today!

Last Call for Verification Forms

The Chamber has seen a great response from members who have already returned their personalized Membership Verification Forms. These forms allow staff to update the online Membership Directory and ensure the 2022 "North Iowa's Best Businesses" Membership Directory is as accurate as possible. Members also have the option of making changes on their own through the online Member Information Center (MIC).

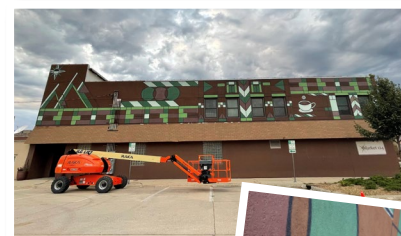
There is still time to make changes! The Chamber requests members return their forms or make changes in the MIC by Friday, September 10. Contact Colleen if you did not receive a Membership Verification Form, or need assistance logging into the MIC (cfrein@masoncityia.com | 641.423.5724).

Thank You Alliant and RAKA

The Chamber's *Building Our Brand* program added another mural to Mason City's downtown streetscape last month. Local artist (and Chamber staff member) Zoie Papouchis designed and painted a welcoming vista on Market 124.

Special thanks to RAKA for the use of a boom lift to safely reach the second story "canvas" and to Alliant Energy for temporarily moving electrical wires to keep Zoie out of harm's way.

Two additional downtown murals are on the schedule for completion this year.

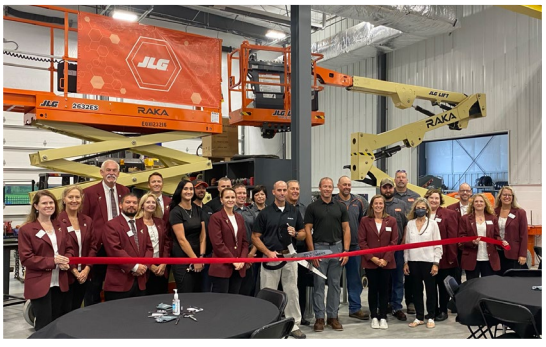


Ribbon Cuttings

NEW MEMBER
Rolling Acres Christian
Reformed Church
341 19th St SW



NEW LOCATION
RAKA
3610 Highway 18 East
Clear Lake



YIELD Sponsorships

Since 2003, the Chamber has provided training for our future community leaders through **YIELD (Youth Investing Energy in Leadership Development)**. High school juniors from Mason City recognized as good students and good citizens with leadership potential are selected to participate in the program. Students meet once/week for 16 weeks to participate in leadership training sessions, team-building exercises, and to complete a community impact project.

Businesses are invited to sponsor the program with a \$100 contribution designated to student course tuition. Please contact Allyson at the Chamber (akrull@masoncityia.com) for more information or to become a sponsor of this valuable leadership program.



Ag Tour

The 2021 **Ag Tour** at Hoover's Hatchery in Rudd went off without a hatch hitch! Nearly 30 Chamber members, accompanied by Congressman Randy Feenstra, toured the facility. Thank you to Hoover's Hatchery and the **Ag Tour** sponsors for a great event!



Wellness

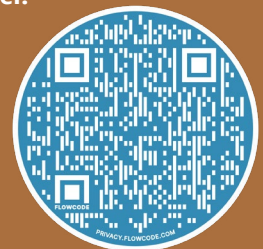
Chamber Downtown Walk

After more than a year of social distancing and disconnection, Iowa's Healthiest State Initiative is excited for Iowans to gather with their colleagues, classmates, friends, family members, or neighbors for the 11th Annual Healthiest State Walk!

Social connections not only impact mental health, but physical health as well – and walking is the perfect activity to reconnect. Thousands Iowans across the state will be gathering to walk for 30 minutes on Wednesday, October 6.

Businesses are invited to join the Chamber at 2PM on October 6 to participate in the organized walk as part of the initiative, the Downtown Chamber Walk! Participants will meet in Central Park near the Chamber office (9 N Federal) and walk for 30 minutes around downtown, taking in the beautiful enhancements to Mason City, including the sculptures, murals, and Principal Pavilion.

Scan the QR code below to register.



Those interested in joining the Worksite Wellness committee to help plan the *Moonlight Bike Ride*, Workplace Seminars, and other wellness related programs, may contact Noah Harris at nharris@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
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

Kyle Bermel, *Metalcraft, Inc.*
Dr. Noemi Cruz-Orcutt, *Mint Springs Dentistry*
Michael Davis, *IOOF Home & Community Therapy Center*
Drew Gappa, *NSB Bank*
Andrew Johnston, *Laird Law Firm*
Matt Koch, *Sukup Manufacturing*
Janelle Kruger, *Kraft Heinz*
Matt Leibbrand, *Stoney Creek Hospitality*
Dr. Paul Manternach, *MercyOne North Iowa Medical Center*
Evan Raulie, *Smithfield*
Jessica Reith, *Cargill Protein*
Katy Showalter, *Window World of Mason City*
Jaci Smith, *Globe Gazette*
Bert Vigen, *Nordic Home Improvements*
Katie Wold, *Market 124*
Dan Young, *Young Construction of North Iowa*

Staff

Robin Anderson, CCE, IOM
President & Chief Executive Officer
randerson@masoncityia.com
Colleen Frein, IOM
Vice President & Membership Director
cfrein@masoncityia.com
Allyson Krull, IOM
Marketing & Leadership Development Director
akrull@masoncityia.com
Noah Harris
Program Director
nharris@masoncityia.com
Zoie Papouchis
Service & Operations Associate
chamber@masoncityia.com

This is a Mason City Chamber of Commerce Publication.
Mason City, Iowa 50401 641.423.5724

Publications are monthly for \$20 per year by the Mason City Chamber of Commerce, 9 North Federal Avenue, Mason City, IA 50401-3250. Second Class postage paid at Mason City, IA. Postmaster: send address changes to The Chamber, 9 North Federal Avenue, Mason City, IA 50401-3250.



Upcoming Events

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Professional Development

Thursday
Sept 9

Breaking Glass with Dr. Tonya Gray | 8:30-10AM
3rd Floor Event Room | Commerce Center | 9 N Federal Ave

Networking Events

Thursday
Sept 16

Chamber Cup | 1-4PM
Central Park | N Federal Ave

Thursday
Sept 23

Ribbon Cutting - Lincoln Intermediate Playground
1:30PM
Lincoln Intermediate School | 1625 S Pennsylvania Ave

Business After Hours hosted by ISU Extension | 4-6PM
ISU Extension & Outreach | 601 S Illinois Ave

Wednesday
Sept 29

Greece Info Session | Noon-1PM
Presented virtually via Zoom

Get Involved/Committee Meetings

Tuesday
Sept 7

Ambassador Meeting | Noon-1PM
Pizza Ranch | 1617 S Monroe Ave

Wednesday
Sept 8

Agribusiness Committee | 8-9AM
Board Room, Commerce Center | 9 N Federal Ave
Program Committee | Noon-1PM
Board Room, Commerce Center | 9 N Federal Ave

Tuesday
Sept 14

Wellness Committee | 3-4PM
Farrer Room, Commerce Center | 9 N Federal Ave

Wednesday
Sept 22

Chamber Board Meeting | Noon-3:30PM
3rd Floor Event Room | Commerce Center | 9 N Federal Ave

October Events

October 6 **Chamber Downtown Walk**
October 7 **Annual Meeting**
October 21 **Business After Hours** sponsored by Thrivent - Alyse Hesley