

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

Date: Thursday, February 24

Location: Main Street Mason City
9 N Federal Ave

Hosted By:



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

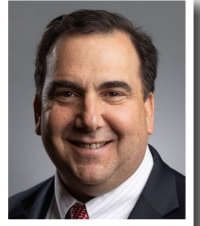
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New Venue for Ag Breakfast

The Agribusiness Committee selected a new venue for the 40th annual **Ag Breakfast**. The event, which celebrates Ag Week, is scheduled from 8-10AM on Tuesday, March 22 at the Kevin Pope farmstead.

Dan Robison from Iowa State University is the keynote speaker. Robison oversees the College of Agriculture's network of farm and field stations around the state - including new capacities in livestock, grain processing and biorenewables; extensive laboratory and greenhouse facilities; collaborative federal laboratories; ISU Extension and Outreach; and about \$60 million in annual research activity. Major initiatives in global engagement, innovation and entrepreneurship, sustainability, and agricultural vitality and food systems are continually being advanced. The college has key partnerships with public and private sector interests across the agricultural sector, including work in natural resources, technology, and life and social sciences.



Dan Robison
ISU Dean of College of
Agriculture & Life Sciences

The **Ag Breakfast** returns to its original, in-person format—including the much beloved tradition of made-to-order omelets cooked by Agribusiness committee members.

Tickets are available in books of ten for \$100 for Chamber members and \$120 for non-members. Individual tickets are priced at \$12 each and \$5 each for students. All tickets can be purchased online at 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 2022 **Ag Breakfast** Sponsors:



**CLEAR LAKE
BANK & TRUST**



Chamber Bowl - February 1-3

There's still room to sign up a team for the 29th annual **Chamber Bowl** at Mystic Lanes. Teams of six will compete for prizes and enjoy networking with other businesses. The \$200 registration fee includes shoe rental, three games of bowling, and dinner. Extra meal tickets can be purchased for \$15.

Time: Registration 3:30PM | Bowling 4PM | Dinner & Awards 6:30PM

Date: Tuesday, February 1; Wednesday, February 2; Thursday, February 3

Makeup date: Friday, February 4

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

2022 **Chamber Bowl** Sponsors:



EDWARDS-BRANDT & ASSOCIATES INC.
INSURANCE



AN IHG® HOTEL



New Members

AMANDA RAGAN

Amanda Ragan, State Senator
361 S Pennsylvania Ave, 1-D
Mason City, IA 50401
(641) 424-0874
amanda.ragan@legis.iowa.gov

BRICK & TILE LLC

Leah Burnett, Property Manager
PO Box 1892
Mason City, IA 50402
(319) 594-2675
burnett.leah@gmail.com

Retail and office building located in
downtown Mason City.

PINE CREEK GOLF CLUB

JT Haugen, Co-Owner
15566 317th St
Mason City, IA 50401
(641) 423-6831
pinecreekmasoncity@gmail.com
pinecreekgolfclub.com

North Iowa's premier 9-hole
executive golf course. Offering open
play, leagues, tournaments, food,
and beverage.

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Matthew Meyer, Director of
Marketing
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Mason City, IA 50401
(641) 450-1637
masoncity@rcderm.com
www.radiantcomplexions.com

We offer medical and cosmetic
dermatology services with no
referral needed. Same day and next
day appointments available.



From the President

More than Cabin Fever

I love North Iowa, but I'm itching to travel!

Next month, our Chamber is leading a **Global Familiarization Tour** to Greece. The pandemic caused the cancellation of our sold-out trip to Russia in April 2020 as well as a scheduled return-trip to India in September 2020.

Our trip to Greece is important for many reasons. First, it marks a bit of a return to "normal operations." We believe these trips to U.S. trading partners are an important step in changing the hearts and minds of North Iowans as we transition to the global economy. Learning about another country's culture and customs helps to establish mutual respect and understanding. In addition, the friendships that develop among our travelers are heartwarming.

Special thanks to our Marketing & Leadership Development Director Allyson Krull for arranging these trips for the Chamber. She's knee-deep in ever-changing COVID-19 requirements, ever-changing flight schedules, and making sure travel documents are correct.

We're cautiously returning to global travel, but we're also looking forward to announcing a group trip to New York City this summer! "The Music Man" has returned to Broadway—and we're working with our friends at The Music Man Square and Visit Mason City to assist North Iowans in seeing this show.

Watch for details next month...and if you have ideas on places we should consider for our next **Global Familiarization Tour**, please let me know!



Robin Anderson
President & CEO

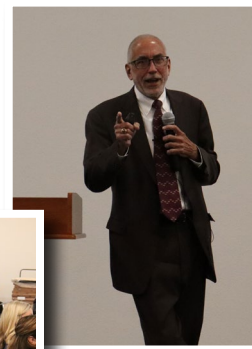
The State of North Iowa

The State of North Iowa was held at the new Fairfield Inn and Suites by Marriott in Clear Lake on Thursday, January 13.

Dr. Ron Cox, Director of CIRAS at Iowa State University provided the keynote presentation entitled, "The Iowa Workforce Skirmishes." His program shared statistics on the current laborshed in Iowa and how it is trending for the future.

Chamber President and CEO Robin Anderson presented data on the impact of placemaking initiatives as a workforce attraction and retention strategy.

North Iowa Corridor EDC President and CEO Chad Schreck provided some key updates on housing in North Iowa, and highlighted a new workforce campaign, with the projected results re-enforced by Mason City Police Chief Jeff Brinkley, who recently utilized the same campaign and saw great success.



Dr. Ron Cox
ISU CIRAS
Director

Iowa Talent Poll Results

It was certainly an honor for Mason City to be recognized by Gov. Reynolds in her Condition of the State address for placemaking efforts aimed at attracting and retaining workforce. In addition, data from a poll commissioned by the Iowa Chamber Alliance (ICA) during December revealed that QUALITY OF PLACE is the most important thing to Iowa workers.

ICA selected the CYGNAL firm to conduct a poll of Working Age Iowans to better understand the issues that are important to Iowa's labor force. ICA members felt the first step in attracting new workers to Iowa is to understand what the current workforce finds attractive about living here.

CYGNAL surveyed 826 people age 18-65 who are Iowa residents and registered voters in a combination of interviews and questionnaires between December 2-13. Following are insights from the survey analysis relating to Amenities and Quality of Life.

- Respondents expressed a real dissatisfaction with Iowa's entertainment opportunities. More than two-thirds think they're inferior to those in other states.
- However, the opposite is true for Iowa's outdoor recreational opportunities. Highlighting Iowa's outdoor recreational options could be a winning message in recruitment efforts.
- When asked about the state's infrastructure and schools, most respondents viewed Iowa's public schools as superior to those in most other states. The same is true for Iowa's water. But they were less thrilled with Iowa's roads, public transportation, and internet—in fact, for all three, the majority felt Iowa's offerings were inferior to other states.
- However, schools ranked near the bottom when it came to Iowans' favorite things about the state. It's likely that, while they think the schools are great, they believe it would be easier to find a state with similar-quality schools than it would be to find a state with:
 - Small-town feel
 - Low cost of living
 - Friendly people AND
 - Safe Place

These four things were overwhelmingly the top attributes.

- And the things they like least?
 - Career opportunities
 - WEATHER
 - Sporting events
 - Entertainment



Following a full analysis of the responses, ICA members will be better able to create a marketing approach that emphasizes their region's attributes: small-town feel, low cost of living, friendly people, and a safe environment. In addition, the Iowa Talent Poll results will be shared with legislators and the governor's office to ensure proposed legislation to attract and retain workforce address the issues and attributes reflected in the poll.



Mason City delegation with Governor Reynolds at Condition of the State address:

Aaron Burnett, Robin Anderson, Gov. Kim Reynolds, O Jay Tomson, Mayor Bill Schickel

New Members (cont.)

THE WINDOW SOURCE OF MASON CITY

Tim Murray, Owner
1521 15th St SW
Mason City, IA 50401
(641) 210-7004
info@windowsourceofmasoncity.com
windowsourceofmasoncity.com

The Window Source is your go-to provider of new and replacement windows in Mason City. From sliding glass doors to windows, our expert team can help you choose the right option for your home and get them installed in the Mason City area including Clear Lake, Garner, Algona, and Charles City.

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.

February 4 | Pine Creek Golf Club
JT Haugen

February 11 | The Window Source
of Mason City
Tim Murray

February 18 | NIACC Performing
Arts & Leadership
Series
Jessica Vetter

February 25 | Radiant Complexions
Dermatology Clinic
Krishna Hanson

Membership Renewals

Congratulations to the Chamber members celebrating membership anniversaries in February!

Seventy Plus Years

Floyd & Leonard (78)

Sixty Plus Years

Winston & Byrne, PC (64)

Forty Plus Years

Lea Mobile Glass, Inc. (46)

Marco (44)

Mason City By-Products (42)

Thirty Plus Years

Mason City Community School District (38)

Reagan Outdoor Advertising (36)

Gordon Flesch Company (35)

Animal Medical Hospital (30)

Clausen Plumbing & Heating (30)

Crisis Intervention Service (30)

Custom Auto Builders (30)

Twenty Plus Years

Lamont Financial Group (25)

Mason City Foundation/The Music Man Square (24)

State Farm Insurance - Clint Thomas (22)

Corporate Farmer, Inc. (21)

Fifteen Plus Years

Globe Siding Insulation & Window Co. (18)

McQuaid Agency (18)

Greater Mason City Board of Realtors (17)

First Covenant Church (15)

Edward Jones - Sara Carlsson, CFP (15)

Ten Plus Years

Mason City Noon Rotary Club (14)

Wealth Progression Group (12)

Bergo Environmental Services (11)

Roller City (10)

North Central Mechanical Services (10)

Stellar Truck & Trailer (10)

Breaking Glass - April 27

The next **Breaking Glass** session on Wednesday, April 27, will feature University of Iowa President Barbara Wilson.

Dr. Barbara J. Wilson began her term as the 22nd president of the University of Iowa on July 15, 2021. She earned a bachelor's degree in journalism and her master's degree and PhD in communication arts from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She came to Iowa most recently having served as the executive vice president/vice president for academic affairs of the University of Illinois System. Prior to that, she served as head of the Department of Communication, vice provost for academic affairs, executive vice provost for faculty and academic affairs, Harry E. Preble Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and interim chancellor of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. President Wilson was a member of the University of Illinois faculty for 21 years. She was also a professor of communication at the University of California-Santa Barbara, and the University of Louisville.



Dr. Barbara J. Wilson
University of Iowa

President Wilson's research focuses on the social and psychological effects of the media, particularly on youth. She is coauthor or coeditor of four books and more than 80 research articles, book chapters, and technical reports. In 2008, she was elected as Fellow of the International Communication Association.

The **Breaking Glass Leadership Series** 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. For tickets to this event, contact Noah at nharris@masoncityia.com or call the Chamber at 641.423.5724. Tickets are \$10 for members and \$20 for non-members.

This session is sponsored by:



College Connections 2022

College Connections is gearing up to involve summer interns in a program designed to connect young workers to North Iowa and to each other. Each \$100 sponsor may enroll up to four interns in the program. If a business does not wish to be a sponsor, the charge per intern enrolled is \$25.

College Connections runs throughout the summer, June 2- July 28, 2022. 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.



All businesses who employ interns are encouraged to enroll these young professionals in this educational and developmental program.

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

Leadership North Iowa

Leadership North Iowa 2022 is underway! The cohort consists of 25 participants from area businesses looking to enhance their leadership skills, expand their professional network, and learn more about the North Iowa community. Soon, the class will select a project for community betterment.



Thank you to the 2022 Leadership North Iowa Sponsors:



Harris Attends Professional Development



Noah Harris
Program Director

Program Director Noah Harris recently completed 24 hours of course instruction at the Institute for Organization Management (IOM), a four-year nonprofit leadership training program in Tucson, AZ. This is Noah's first year of a four-year program culminating in professional certification.

Since its commencement in 1921, the Institute program has educated tens of thousands of association, chamber, and other nonprofit leaders on how to build stronger organizations, better serve their members, and become strong business advocates. Institute's curriculum consists of four week-long sessions at five different

university locations across the country. Through a combination of required courses and electives in areas such as leadership, advocacy, marketing, finance, and membership, Institute participants enhance their organizational management skills and add new fuel to their organizations, making them run more efficiently and effectively.

Institute for Organization Management is the professional development program of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation. It is the premier nonprofit professional development program for association and chamber professionals, fostering individual growth through interactive learning and networking opportunities.

All of the full-time staff at the Chamber have achieved the IOM professional designation. "Institute graduates are recognized across the country as leaders in their industries and organizations," said Raymond P. Towle, IOM, CAE, who serves as the U.S. Chamber Foundation's vice president and oversees the Institute.

Membership Renewals (cont.)

Five Plus Years

Woodford Lumber & Home (9)
River City Morning Kiwanis (9)
North Iowa Christian School (8)
Pastime Gardens (7)
JT Mudjacking (7)
Billion Ford of Clear Lake (6)
Rod Schlader & Susan Rebedeau (5)
Andersen's Market (5)

One Plus Years

North Iowa Car Electronics (4)
First Presbyterian Church (3)
Alpha Roofing LLC (3)
Hernandez Tree Removal (2)
United States Postal Service (2)
North Iowa 3D (2)
Iowa Corn (1)
Bakery Lane (1)
Nelson Media Company (1)
Bushel Boy Farms (1)
Mason City Motor Speedway (1)
Simply Nourished (1)
Human Resource Association of North Iowa (1)

2022 Chamber Events

Mark the calendar for these popular Chamber events in 2022!

Chamber Bowl | February 1-3

Ag Breakfast | March 22

North Iowa Band Festival | May 26-30

Chamber Golf Outing | June 16

Moonlight Bike Ride | August 19

Ag Tour | Summer 2022

New Member Luncheon | August 25

Chamber Cup | September 15

Annual Meeting | October 6

Operation Thank You | December 8



Mason City represented at ABA Marketplace

Group travel is back! The American Bus Association's (ABA) annual marketplace event was held January 8-12 Grapevine, Texas! Visit Mason City teamed up with the Clear Lake and Forest Chambers of Commerce and Bob Buesing of The Group Travel Guy to promote North Iowa to motorcoach tour



planners from around the country. During the show, Bob met with 70 group tour planners during one-on-one appointments and shared itinerary ideas for Mason City/Clear Lake.

In addition, Mason City and Clear Lake were spotlighted on the exhibit floor in the Iowa booth sponsored by Iowa Travel Industry Partners. The booth was staffed by tourism colleagues from around the state as well as two Ghost Players from the Field of Dreams Movie site—Frank Dardis and Paul Schermann—who helped shine a light on the unique experiences that can only be found here in Iowa. iTIP staff also met with 20 group tour planners during one-on-one appointments.



Notes from both the North Iowa and iTIP meetings will be shared with VMC's tourism partners. VMC staff will work to follow up with group tour planners who expressed interest in planning a trip to Mason City and North Iowa.

VISIT MASON CITY IS NOW ON



@visitmasoncityiowa

Stay up-to-date with what's happening in Mason City!

Sign up for our **weekly e-newsletter** and we'll keep you posted on all the exciting events and local happenings taking place right here in River City!

>> visitmasoncityiowa.com/contact-us/newsletter-sign-up/

2022 INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Name:

Business:

Phone:

Email:



1. Select your desired sponsor level below.
2. Select the corresponding number of events you want to sponsor to the right.

- ☐ **LEVEL 7 | \$5,000+**
- Everything from the levels below
 - Major sponsor of ALL Main St. Mason City events for 2022
 - 6 tickets to St. Paddy's Day Bar Hop
 - 6 tickets to Jingle Mingle Bar Crawl
 - 2 tickets to the Haunted Historic Building Tour

- ☐ **LEVEL 6 | \$4,000**
- Everything from the levels below
 - Select eight (8) events to the right to sponsor
 - 6 drink tickets for each Friday Night Live

- ☐ **LEVEL 5 | \$3,000**
- Everything from the levels below
 - Select six (6) events to the right to sponsor
 - Logo on MSMC T-shirt
 - Radio/Newspaper/Ad mentions

- ☐ **LEVEL 4 | \$2,000**
- Everything from the levels below
 - Select four (4) events to the right to sponsor
 - Logo on MSMC T-shirt
 - Radio/Newspaper/Ad mentions

- ☐ **LEVEL 3 | \$1,000**
- Everything from the levels below
 - Select two (2) events to the right to sponsor
 - Banner up at the chosen events

- ☐ **LEVEL 2 | \$500**
- Everything from the levels below
 - Select one (1) event to the right to sponsor
 - Name listed on promo items for the chosen event

- ☐ **FRIEND OF MAIN STREET | \$50+**
- A general investment to Main Street Mason City
 - Name listed in program for annual meeting, newsletter and shared on social media

- ☐ **IN-KIND GOODS/SERVICES**
- I would like to provide in-kind goods/services to meet a sponsorship level. We will contact you with our needs!

- ☐ **PROVIDE VOLUNTEERS/GOODS**
- Contact my business to provide volunteers, supplies, goods, services and/or prizes. **List the events below.***

- ☐ **ANNUAL MEETING/B.A.H.**
Thursday, February 24

- ☐ **ST. PADDY'S DAY BAR HOP**
Saturday, March 12

- ☐ **MAIN STREET DISTRICT CLEAN-UP DAYS**
- ☐ Spring 2022
 - ☐ Fall 2022

- ☐ **FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE**
- ☐ Friday, June 17
 - ☐ Friday, July 15
 - ☐ Friday, August 19

- ☐ **BREW TO BREW BIKE RIDE**
Saturday, September 17

- ☐ **MUTT STRUTT & SCULPTURE WALK**
October 2022

- ☐ **HAUNTED HISTORIC BUILDING TOUR**
Friday, October 28

- ☐ **RUN WITH RUDOLPH**
Saturday, November 26

- ☐ **HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS**
Saturday, November 26

- ☐ **TREE LIGHTING**
Saturday, November 26

- ☐ **JINGLE MINGLE JAMMIE CRAWL**
Saturday, December 10

- ☐ **SKATE WITH SANTA**
December 2022

- ☐ **DONATE TO:**
- ☐ PATRIOTIC HOLIDAY FLAG FUND
 - ☐ DOWNTOWN CHRISTMAS LIGHT FUND

*List events you will provide volunteers, supplies, goods, services and/or prizes for.



Corridor

FEBRUARY 2022



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers:

Scott Smed, Chairman of the Board
Bergland + Cram

Marty Mensen, Vice Chair
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Diane Fischels, Treasurer
MercyOne - North Iowa

Paul Stevenson, Secretary
Clear Lake Bank and Trust

Robert Klocke, Past Chairman
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Mark Ebeling
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Christy Marchand
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Supervisor Tim Latham
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Dr. Steven Schulz
North Iowa Area Community College

Aaron Burnett
City of Mason City

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Scott Flory
City of Clear Lake

STUDENT OUTREACH IN NORTH IOWA

CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN STUDENTS AND BUSINESSES are essential for the region's future, according to Hunter Callanan of the North Iowa Corridor EDC.

"It's important to retain talent in North Iowa," Callanan says. "This investment won't help hiring woes now, but if we don't impact students, we miss that chance to connect with them so they know the opportunities here."

As Workforce Specialist at the Corridor, Callanan works with schools and business leaders to make these conversations possible. It's also important to help schools offer opportunities for young people to identify their interests and build skills.

Activities include job readiness and interest inventories, presentations by employees of local companies, visits to actual business sites, job shadowing, and more.

For instance, a Discover Day program held in past years at North Iowa Area Community College gave students the chance to identify their interests and traits and pairs them with different careers in North Iowa that fit their individual profiles.

The Corridor lines up employees of local businesses to come talk with students about their jobs and how students can prepare themselves for that work. It's a way for young people to find out that opportunities exist right here, if they wish to stay or come back after further education.

The past two years have been challenging for maintaining many of these outreach programs, according to Callanan. The COVID-19 pandemic has prevented large gatherings, and presenters from local businesses are often too busy due to staffing shortages.

To be flexible, virtual options have been used to make these connections, such as mock interviews online. This alternate platform presents its own advantages for learning.

"It's a time-saver to conduct virtual interviews, and a lot of business people are utilizing that now," Callanan says. "It's a new twist on things students will have to prepare for." Callanan points out virtual interviews require different skills. "It takes a higher level of energy to project yourself virtually. It's all-around harder to portray yourself when on screen. The interviewer can't see your body language. It takes more elaboration of answers. Facial expressions come across differently on screen than in person."

The responsibility for career readiness does not rest solely on schools. Callanan emphasizes to businesses that it's in their best interests to talk to young people in our schools. Getting involved in NIC's outreach to students at all grade levels is an important way for local companies to guarantee success in the future.

North Iowa is not alone in the U.S. with the problem of finding enough workers to fill positions. Callanan says, "It's more important than ever that businesses interact with schools and help students see how their decisions now impact their lives post-high school. It's a strategy in retaining our population. The key is exposing them to opportunities in North Iowa."

CHAD SCHRECK
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PAPPAJOHN ENTREPRENEURIAL CENTER

The Entrepreneurial Edge

A NIACC John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center Publication

Pappajohn Center 2021 Entrepreneur's of the Year

Entrepreneur of the Month – Year in Review

Check out the Pappajohn Center website for full stories of the amazing entrepreneurs we have highlighted: www.pappajohncenter.com/entrepreneurs/success-stories/



L&J Industries
Chris Garden
November 2021



Stock Cropper
Zack Smith
September 2021



Frein Audio & Technology
Lucas Frein
August 2021



Dave's Auto Service
Joe Jamtgaard and
Jackie Villela
July 2021



Broad Street Diesel
Ross Bissen and
Cole Kruse
May 2021



Clear Lake Connected
Paige Rolling and
Jillian Enke
April 2021



Ag Ventures Alliance
Spencer Stensrude
March 2021



Main Street Drug
Cindy Uetz
February 2021



Norsemen Trucking
David Steffens, Jr.
January 2021



BUSINESS
& WORKFORCE
SOLUTIONS

GROW YOUR REACH

Tuesday, April 5 • 9 - 11 am
Course #: 10891 • Cost: \$85



Securing an online presence is essential to your business and its success. For more information and to register, call 641-422-4358 or go to niacc.augusoft.net (search "Grow Your Reach")

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

Bergland + Cram Architects
Century 21 Preferred
First Security Bank & Trust
REG Mason City, LLC

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

98.7 Kiss Country / 103.7 The Fox
/ KIOW 107.3 / KCHA 95.9
Farmers State Bank
Henkel Construction Co.
NSB Bank
Sukup Manufacturing Co.



Save the Date: North Iowa Band Festival

This year's **North Iowa Band Festival** is scheduled for Memorial Day Weekend, May 26-30. The committee has been meeting monthly to plan this year's festival which will celebrate North Iowa's Musical Heritage for the 83rd year!

With "The Music Man" currently showing on Broadway, the committee found it appropriate to follow through with the "Band Fest on Broadway" theme as a nod to the reprisal of "The Music Man" on Broadway."



Plans for entertainment are underway and the committee is working hard to present the annual festivities, with the parade making its way through town on Saturday morning, May 28.

The Chamber is currently working to present a summer trip 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. More information will be announced in the coming months.



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 2022 Festival. Thank you!

DRUM MAJOR SPONSORS



FLAG CORPS SPONSORS

Clear Lake Bank & Trust Co.
Holiday Inn Express & Suites - Mason City
MercyOne North Iowa Medical Center
POET Biorefining - Hanlontown
REG Mason City, LLC

YIELD - The Kindness Project

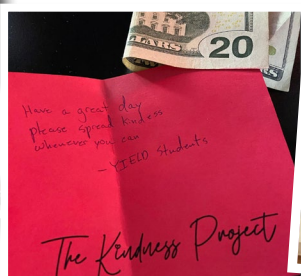
Each year, **YIELD** students complete a Community Impact Project as a graduation requirement. This year's class decided on a simple concept: spreading kindness. With so much negativity going on in the world, students decided everyone could use more kindness, understanding, and inclusion.

The purpose of "The Kindness Project" is to challenge folks in the community to get involved and complete kind acts as well. Just as these acts of kindness range in variety, they also vary in cost. Students brainstormed ideas and discussed logistics before landing on each idea.

Students have been spreading kindness throughout January in the following ways:

- Helping purchase groceries for those in need
- Taking hot chocolate to strangers outside in the cold
- Supplying BINGO goodies to a nursing home
- Leaving generous tips for hard-working servers
- Paying a portion of tanks of gas at the pump
- Leaving kind notes/words of encouragement on car windshields

Thanks to a generous grant from a local trust, expenses were covered and the group was able to help many community members. **YIELD** students are excited about spreading joy and kindness to others - and are encouraging everyone to join in the movement.



Golf Outing - Save the Date

Who's over the sub-zero temperatures?! Let's think summer! Mark the calendar for the **Chamber Golf Outing**, scheduled for June 16, 2022 at the Mason City Country Club. In the event of rain, an alternate date is set for Tuesday, June 21. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis, so watch for details on the Chamber's website (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:



Wellness

Healthiest State Initiative Awards



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

Congratulations to North Iowa Area Council of Governments (NIACOG), which is a finalist in the workplace (small) category. Viewers can watch this year's awards live at 6PM on February 17 on the Healthiest State Initiative Facebook page.

Previous winners include POET Biorefining – Hanlontown for the 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.



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This is a Mason City Chamber of Commerce Publication.
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Publications are monthly for \$20 per year by the Mason City
Chamber of Commerce, 9 N Federal Ave, Mason City, IA 50401-
3250. Second Class postage paid at Mason City, IA. Postmaster:
send address changes to The Chamber, 9 N Federal Ave, Mason
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Upcoming Events

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Networking Events

Tuesday-Thursday

February 1-3

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

Thursday

February 10

Ribbon Cutting - The Window Source of Mason City | 10AM
The Window Source of Mason City | 1521 15th St SW

Thursday

February 24

Business After Hours | 4-6PM
Main Street Mason City
Third Floor Event Room, Commerce Center | 9 N Federal Ave

Get Involved/Committee Meetings

Tuesday

February 1

Ambassador Meeting | Noon-1PM
Third Floor Event Room, Commerce Center | 9 N Federal Ave

Wednesday

February 9

Agribusiness Committee Meeting | 8-9AM
Third Floor Event Room, Commerce Center | 9 N Federal Ave

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

Friday

February 11

Band Festival Committee Meeting | Noon-1PM
Band Festival Room, Commerce Center | 9 N Federal Ave

Tuesday

February 15

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

Wednesday

February 23

Board Meeting | Noon-1PM
Board Room, Commerce Center | 9 N Federal Ave

March 2022

March 22 | Ag Breakfast