

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 2

Location: Mason City Schools
Fieldhouse & Natatorium
1700 4th St SE

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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Breaking Glass - February 2

April Hemmes will serve as the speaker for the **Breaking Glass: Women's Leadership Series** from 8:30-10AM on Thursday, February 2 at the Commerce Center, sponsored by Bergland+Cram Architects.

April Hemmes farms in Franklin County and serves as a district 2 director for the Iowa Soybean Association (ISA). Hemmes has participated in trade missions, advocating for U.S. soy all over the world. She was particularly moved by witnessing an aquaculture program ISA helped develop in China come to life, using U.S. soy as feed and increasing fish production by 300% for its citizens.



April Hemmes
Iowa Soybean Association

Forging her way to national leadership, Hemmes currently serves as one of 73 farmers on the United Soybean Board, helping to direct national soybean checkoff dollars and representing the soybean industry at the national level. Actively involved in her community, Hemmes has also served as county soil and water commissioner for more than 20 years and serves on the board of her local Natural Resource Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency.

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.

Chamber Bowl - February 15-17

There is still room to sign up a team for the 30th 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 lunch. Extra meal tickets can also be purchased for \$15.

Time: Registration 11:30AM | Bowling begins at 12PM | Dinner & awards at 4PM

Date: Wednesday, February 15; Thursday, February 16; Friday, February 17

Makeup dates: February 22, February 23, February 24

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

Thank you, **Chamber Bowl** Sponsors!



New Members

MARKLEY & BLYTHE

Mellisa Leach
15 W State St
Mason City, IA 50401
(641) 422-0015
markleyandblythe@
theindigoroad.com
www.markleyandblythe.com

An homage to the bounty of the Midwest and history of its storied location, Markley & Blythe is a sophisticated American tavern driven by the seasonality of regional produce and offerings of neighboring farmers.

MOLLIE'S MISSION

Jo Pearce, Treasurer
22 4th Street NW
Mason City, IA 50401
(515) 650-3139
molliesmission@yahoo.com
www.molliesmission.org

Mollie's Mission was born from a need to help Feed, Foster & Friend pets in need.

SCOOTER'S COFFEE

Melissa Steffes, Owner
1315 4th Street SW
Mason City, IA 50401
(402) 630-3862
msteffes@bluwaterbrew.com
www.scooterscoffee.com
Scooter's Coffee is best known for its amazingly fast drive-thru, specialty coffee, and baked-from-scratch pastries. Opening in Mason City February 17.



From the President

If you've ever visited my office, you may have seen a glass block in the middle of my desk with the letters "DWYSYWD." It was a gift from a dear friend; a daily reminder to "do what you say you will do." A simple phrase, but not always an easy task.

When I was hired as the President & CEO, one of the things I "said I would do" is to double-down on our workforce attraction/retention initiatives. We have developed some innovative, award-winning programming through **Community Concierge**, **Building COMMUNITY**, and **Leadership North Iowa**, among others. But despite our best efforts, I know we could be doing more. These programs were overseen by three different people, and each was a small portion of the person's job. (If you've ever heard the term, "where everyone is responsible, no one is really responsible," I feel like it applies here). So my first step in my new role was to change this.

Now, the programs will be the work of one person, and her sole focus is to develop, intertwine, and expand them, so we can really move the needle on population growth and talent development. That person is someone you probably already know – our own Allyson Krull.

Allyson Krull has been promoted to Vice President of Workforce and Leadership Development (or, VP for short). You can read more about her promotion on page 4. If there is anyone who lives by the "DWYSYWD" principle, it's Allyson. And over the last several years, the Chamber has invested in her to attend professional development focused on workforce attraction/retention, DEI, STEM initiatives, and upskilling our workforce. Now, she will employ this knowledge to help us get to where we ~~want~~ need to go. Please join me in congratulating Allyson, and you can look forward to some exciting new workforce and leadership-related opportunities and services in the coming months.



Colleen Frein
President & CEO

Ag Breakfast - March 23

The **Ag Breakfast** is set for 8-10AM on Thursday, March 23 in the All Seasons Building at the North Iowa Events Center.

Keynote speaker Zack Smith will discuss his modern farming technique through his organization, The Stock Cropper. Stock Cropping is a dynamic farming system that combines livestock and crop production so that multiple species of plants and livestock can coexist in the field at the same time. This allows farmers to harness the natural cycles of a plant-animal ecosystem to grow healthier animals, healthier soils, and a lower carbon footprint. The Stock Cropper is designed to help reconnect consumers with the people that do the work, care for the land, and sustain their local communities (www.thestockcropper.com).

The **Ag Breakfast** is organized by the Chamber's Agribusiness Committee and attendees can expect made-to-order omelets cooked by committee members. The focus for the **Ag Breakfast** is to bring farm and city together under one roof without the barrier of cost of admission. Thanks to generous sponsors, this year's **Ag Breakfast** is FREE for all to attend.

Thank you to the Event Sponsors:



Croatia Info Session - February 16

A no-obligation travel presentation for the Chamber's **Global Familiarization Trip** to Croatia will be held at Noon on Thursday, February 16. Join us in person at the Commerce Center or virtually via Zoom.

Croatia is home to more than a thousand islands and thousands of miles of seafront. Known to many for its pebbly beaches, wonderful climate, and dramatic mountains, it also holds a lot of history. Visit the Roman Amphitheater in Pula, the Diocletian's Palace in Split, Zagreb, the nation's engaging capital, and the stunning waterfalls of Plitvice Lakes.

The tour departs November 4-12, 2023 and offers an optional 4-day extension to Dubrovnik. To sign up for the info session or for more information about the trip, contact Allyson (akrull@masoncityia.com | 641.423.5724).

The Very Best of Croatia and the Dalmatian Coast

Zagreb - Opatija - Rovinj - Pula - Venice - Island of Krk - Split - Trogir

Trip cost: \$3,249* per person + taxes (double occupancy)

Optional Dubrovnik Extension: \$699 (double occupancy)

Trip Inclusions:

- International round-trip airfare from Minneapolis (MSP)
- Transportation and hotel accommodations
- English-speaking tour director & sightseeing fees
- 10 Meals: 7 Breakfasts and 3 Dinners

* Early bird pricing is good until April 20, 2023. Early-bird benefit includes \$100 discount.



North Iowa Civics Bee - April 28

For the second year, the Chamber is hosting the U.S. Chamber Foundation National Civics Bee. This year, the **North Iowa Civics Bee** in Mason City will be one of five regional bees happening in Iowa, with the top three students moving on to the Iowa Civics Bee taking place at the Iowa State Fair.

The National Civics Bee is an annual competition that encourages young Americans to engage in civics and contribute to their communities. Participating middle school students will flex their civics knowledge for a chance to win recognition and cash prizes – including a \$500 cash prize for the winner of the local bee, and a \$1000 cash prize for the winner of the state bee.

Middle school students in North Iowa have through February 24 to submit qualifying essays. A panel of judges will score the essays and choose the top twenty students to compete in a live event on April 28 at the FEMA Room at Mason City High School. The public is invited to attend this exciting event and cheer on the students. Thank you to Thrivent – Todd Leet for sponsoring this year's Civics Bee!



thrivent

Todd Leet, BFA™, CLTC®, FIC
Financial Professional

Membership Renewals

Congratulations to the Chamber members celebrating membership anniversaries in February.

Seventy Plus Years

Floyd & Leonard (79)

Sixty Plus Years

Winston & Byrne, PC (65)

Forty Plus Years

Lea Mobile Glass, Inc. (47)

Mason City By-Products (43)

Thirty Plus Years

Mason City Community School District (39)

Reagan Outdoor Advertising (37)

Gordon Flesch Company (36)

Animal Medical Hospital (31)

Clausen Plumbing & Heating (31)

Crisis Intervention Service (31)

Twenty Plus Years

Lamont Financial Group (26)

Mason City Foundation/The Music Man Square (25)

State Farm Insurance - Clint Thomas (23)

Corporate Farmer, Inc. (22)

Fifteen Plus Years

Globe Siding Insulation & Window Co. (19)

McQuaid Agency (19)

Greater Mason City Board of Realtors (18)

First Covenant Church (16)

Edward Jones - Sara Carlsson, CFP (16)

Mason City Noon Rotary Club (15)

Ten Plus Years

Wealth Progression Group (13)

Bergo Environmental Services (12)

Roller City (11)

North Central Mechanical Services (11)

Stellar Truck & Trailer (11)

Woodford Lumber & Home (10)

River City Morning Kiwanis (10)

Membership Renewals (cont.)

Five Plus Years

North Iowa Christian School (9)
Pastime Gardens (8)
Harrison Ford of Clear Lake (7)
Rod Schlader & Susan Rebedeau (6)
Andersen's Market (6)
North Iowa Car Electronics (5)

One Plus Years

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

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 3 | North Iowa Bulls
Ali Pargmann

February 10 | Markley & Blythe
Sara Lindquist

February 17 | Cerro Gordo County
Republican Central
Committee
Julie Billings

February 24 | Scooter's Coffee
Melissa Steffes

Krull Promoted to Vice President

Allyson Krull has been promoted to Vice President. She has served on the Chamber team since 2014 as Marketing and Leadership Development Director. In her new role, Allyson will continue her work with leadership development – directing **Leadership North Iowa**, **YIELD**, and other leadership programming. She will also oversee the Chamber's workforce attraction/retention programming, including the **Community Concierge** service, the **Building CommUNITY** Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion program, and **Global Familiarization tours**.



Allyson Krull
Vice President

Allyson has been an integral part of the Chamber's success in recent years. She was instrumental in leading a successful local ballot issue campaign for the River City Renaissance Project, has led numerous community project initiatives for North Iowa, and was appointed to the Governor's North Central STEM Advisory Board.

She received her IOM designation from the U.S. Chamber's Institute for Organization Management program in 2018. In 2021, Allyson was selected for the U.S. Chamber's Business Leads Fellowship Program to focus on critical education and workforce issues, and in 2022 she was selected for Leadership Iowa, the state's premier issues-awareness and leadership program for Iowa professionals.

Harris Attends U.S. Chamber's Institute

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 second 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.



Noah Harris
Program Director



College Connections 2023

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

College Connections provides a series of social and educational activities on a once-a-week schedule throughout the summer, June 1- July 27, 2023. 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 Allyson (akrull@masoncityia.com) with any questions about the internship program.

Thank You CMO Card Sponsors

The 2023 CMO (Chamber Members Only) Cards feature a variety of local businesses offering a special deal or discount for Chamber members and their employees. The Chamber would like to say a special "thank you" to the sponsors of the 2023 CMO Card! Please take advantage of these great deals!

2023 Card Sponsors:

Chad Harrison, CPA PC
Country Axe
Decker Sports
Godfather's Pizza
Grunwald & Kiger Fine Jewelers
Johnson Heating & Air Conditioning
Habitat for Humanity of North Central Iowa/ Habitat ReStore
Hank's Plumbing
Hardee's Restaurant
Healthy Strides
Hosmer Honda
Hosmer Toyota
Hy-Vee
Mason City Motor Speedway
Mason City Tire Service
McCloskey Appliance
Mechanical Air Systems
Moorman Clothiers
My Fair Trade
Mystic Lanes
NIP Fitness Center
Overhead Door Company of Mason City
Papa's American Café



Pastime Gardens
Perkins Restaurant
Pita Pit Mason City
Pottery on the Plaza
SERVPRO of Mason City
Simply Nourished Mason City
Stadheim Jewelers
Sun Tan City
Synergy Physical Therapy & Sports
Medicine
Taco John's
The Happy Donkey Tequila Bar & Grill
The Window Source of Mason City
Tommy's Express Car Wash
Window World of Mason City
Z'mariks Noodle Cafe

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+

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
Pritchard Companies
Renewable Fuels - REG of Mason City

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

98.7 Kiss Country / 103.7 The Fox
Bergland + Cram Architects
Century 21 Preferred
Farmers State Bank
First Security Bank & Trust
Henkel Construction Co.
Sukup Manufacturing Co.
Thrivent - Todd Leet





Congratulations

2022 TOURISM AWARD RECIPIENTS

Spirit of Tourism

FAT HILL BREWING

Tourism Excellence

MASON CITY HISTORIC
PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Friend of Tourism

TEAM TROUBLE IN RIVER CITY

2022 GOLDEN PINEAPPLE AWARDS

Visitors' Choice Restaurant

PRIME 'N WINE

Visitors' Choice Hotel

COUNTRY INN & SUITES

Visitors' Choice Attraction

THE HISTORIC PARK INN

visitmasoncityiowa.com/tourism-hospitality-awards/



Our mission is to promote, preserve, and enhance Downtown Mason City as a diverse business, cultural, residential and entertainment destination for the benefit of the entire community.

FEBRUARY 2023

JOIN US! VOLUNTEER WITH MAIN STREET MASON CITY

Since 2003, Main Street Mason City has been working to promote, preserve, and enhance Downtown Mason City as a diverse business, cultural, residential, and entertainment destination for the benefit of the entire community. There are a number of ways to get involved in our downtown. If you would like to assist with any of our committees, we'd love to have you. Consider filling out the following volunteer application form or contact Main Street Mason City at director@mainstreetmasoncity.com for more information.

VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: _____
Street Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ () Cell Phone () Work Phone () Home Phone
Email: _____ () Work () Personal

AVAILABILITY

When are you available to volunteer? *Please check all that apply*

() Weekdays () Evenings () Weekends

Notes regarding availability: _____

EXPERIENCE, SPECIAL SKILLS OR QUALIFICATIONS

Please summarize special skills and qualifications you have acquired from employment, previous volunteer work, or through other activities, including hobbies or sports.

AREAS OF INTEREST

Please check all that apply

- () Economic Vitality
- () Design /
Downtown Appearance
- () Business Inventory
Updates *(via phone calls)*
- () Events / Promotions
- () Communications /
Writing
- () Planting Flowers /
Beautification
- () Fundraising

OUR POLICY

Main Street Mason City provides equal opportunities without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual preference, age, or disability.

**Thank you for your interest
in volunteering!**



FEBRUARY 2023

2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

THE NORTH IOWA CORRIDOR works closely with our association, Professional Developers of Iowa (PDI) to advocate for policies that positively impact the future development and growth of our communities and businesses. This year promises to be very busy on the economic development front! The Governor's reorganization proposal and the Legislature's interest in property tax reform mean we will have a lot to keep track of this year.

With 53 new legislators, it is critically important that we weigh in with policymakers to ensure the best outcomes for the region. PDI represents nearly 300 economic development professionals dedicated to expanding Iowa's economy. Priority issues include:

TALENT ATTRACTION & RETENTION

- Grow Iowa's training, retraining, and apprenticeship programs and partner with community colleges and IWD to efficiently deploy throughout the state.
- Support employer retention strategies by sustaining and increasing use of 260E and 260F programs.
- Empower IWD to successfully transition workforce training, apprenticeship, internship and other upskilling programs to their administration and oversight.
- Invest in a quality education system, from early childhood to post-secondary.
- Innovate to address the fundamental flaws of Iowa's childcare system.
- Continue to implement recommendations of the Child Care Task Force to add clarity & resources that address the need for childcare services.
- Simplify legal immigration into Iowa through updated federal policies that strengthen talent acquisition and retention, business development, and economic growth.
- Be a welcoming state to all individuals to grow population and increase the quality and quantity of our labor pool.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ENVIRONMENT

- Protect tax credits and economic development programs that deliver a positive ROI to the state and ensure full funding.
- Support strategies to expand housing opportunities and lower costs statewide.
- Defend tax increment financing (TIF) and be a leader in educating partners and stakeholders on the importance of such tools in both rural and urban development.
- Boldly invest in sustainable creative placemaking and quality of place initiatives and consider an ongoing appropriation to continue Destination Iowa within IEDA.
- Grow Iowa's population by investing in programs such as student loan repayment tax credits, childcare, housing, and other forms of assistance.
- Leverage port authority and land bank legislation to assist regions and communities in the redevelopment of blighted properties.
- Protect local control of Local Option Sales Tax.

INVESTMENT IN IOWA'S INFRASTRUCTURE

- Continue investment in Iowa's water quality and existing infrastructure.
- Invest in outdoor recreation and natural resources and consideration of implementing sales tax appropriation to IWILL while maintaining local control of Local Option Sales Tax.
- Develop sustainable, innovative, and diverse funding tools for Iowa's transportation infrastructure.
- Sustain the state's investment in broadband expansion to meet the needs of businesses, remote workers, students, and telehealth until 100% of Iowa can connect.
- Invest in Iowa's levees and flood mitigation systems.

CHAD SCHRECK

PRESIDENT & CEO

cschreck@northiowacorridor.com

SHAUN ARNESON

VP, EXISTING BUSINESS & PROJECT MANAGEMENT

sarneson@northiowacorridor.com





NIACC Pappajohn Center helps North Iowans upskill with DeltaV Code 101

Free workshops to be held throughout Spring 2023

The Pappajohn Center has partnered with The New Bohemian Innovation Collaborative (NewBoCo) to bring the Delta V Code School to North Iowa. This is an opportunity for Iowans to upskill in preparation for high-wage, high-demand jobs in the technology sector. Code 101, a free one day workshop, provides an introduction to the coding and modern web development career track. In-person classes will be held in Mason City at the NIACC campus throughout Spring 2023:

- Saturday, March 25th, 9am-5pm
- Saturday, April 15th, 9am-5pm
- Saturday, May 13th, 9am-5pm
- Saturday, June 10th, 9am-5pm

Code 101 is a free workshop where you will learn what it looks like to be a software developer through a day-long immersive course for beginners that focuses on front-end web development technologies. Get a taste of the DeltaV learning experience, find out how websites are built, and code a webpage yourself using professional coding practices. DeltaV is a training and technical school through NewBoCo of Cedar Rapids, IA. DeltaV helps Iowans learn the skills to make a career change, enter the high-demand technology field, and become innovators themselves. This is a full-day workshop; lunch is provided.

The NIACC John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center has partnered with the New Bohemian Innovation Collaborative (NewBoCo) of Cedar Rapids to fill gaps in local entrepreneurial ecosystems. The NIACC Pappajohn Center will take part in the Community Partners Pilot Program which will connect each community's expertise and partnerships with NewBoCo's programming and resources.

NewBoCo was awarded a \$100,000 grant through the Entrepreneurial Investment Award (EIA) from the Iowa Economic Development Association (IEDA). The grant is being used to establish the Community Partners Pilot Program. The Entrepreneurial Investment Award (EIA) program provides financial assistance to service providers that offer technical and financial assistance to entrepreneurs and startup companies seeking to create, locate, or expand a business in Iowa.

Registration is required.
**Register now by scanning
the QR code:**



NIACC Pappajohn Center & SBDC Staff

Candace Karsjens, *Director*

Brook Boehmler, *North Iowa Area SBDC Director*

Kelley O'Rourke, *School Partnership Coordinator*

Joyce Martin, *Marketing & Community Relations Mgr.*

Anthony Riesen, *Innovation Workspace Coordinator*

Mary Spitz, *Administrative Assistant*



STEM Externships

The Iowa STEM Teacher Externships Program aims to build bridges between Iowa's workplaces and STEM educators across the state by equipping them to work at local businesses, organizations, and other workplaces alongside knowledgeable and skilled employees during the summer.

Externships build long-lasting school-business partnerships and provide educators with the ability to improve student STEM experiences and career knowledge as well as:

- Connect the STEM Externship experience directly to classroom content and 21st Century Skills identified in the Iowa Core Curriculum.
- Support the local workforce by providing students with STEM career information about business and industry in their community.
- Provide STEM teachers with an income boost and three graduate credits while seeing and using the latest real-world applications in a workplace environment.
- Match educated and skilled STEM teachers as participants and contributors to a workplace's needs.
- Gain publicity through the program's promotion, officially recognizing the workplace's commitment to STEM education and economic development in Iowa.

Contact Allyson (akrull@masoncityia.com) for more information if your business is interested in participating in the STEM Externship program.



84th North Iowa Band Festival Theme

The 84th **North Iowa Band Festival** is scheduled for Memorial Day Weekend, May 25-29, 2023. The committee has been meeting monthly to plan this year's festival which will celebrate North Iowa's musical heritage with an "All-American Band Festival," celebrating the hard-working people of America!

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, May 27. Parade entry applications are now being accepted – find the form included as an insert in this newsletter or online at www.nibandfest.com. Businesses, organizations, and community members are encouraged to participate!

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 State of North Iowa Recap

Thank you to those who were able to attend **The State of North Iowa** in person or online on January 19.

Chamber President Colleen Frein kicked things off with an update from the Iowa Chamber Alliance before Main Street Community Capital partners David Rachie and Robert Johnson gave a presentation on the future Hyatt Place hotel and the Southbridge Mall renovation, which will be dubbed The Main Street Xperience. The renovation will feature a variety of family-entertainment activities and boast new restaurants, upper level housing, and more.

Mason City City Administrator Aaron Burnett presented on the city's recent grant award for the Bike North Iowa project, which will serve to connect disjointed trail systems around Mason City, build a bike park, and more. Chelsy Snyder Anderson provided an update on Clear Lake's Surf District Revitalization project on behalf of the City of Clear Lake, which will give a refresh to the area surrounding the Surf Ballroom in Clear Lake. Both of these projects received grant funding from the state's Destination Iowa program.

North Iowa Corridor President Chad Schreck spoke about *Vision North Iowa* efforts and the regional Joint Comprehensive Plan. The future is bright in North Iowa!



Golf Outing Save the Date

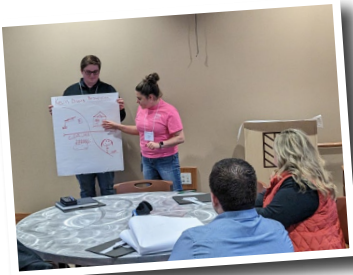
Save the date for the Chamber's annual **Golf Outing** on Thursday, June 15 at the Highland Park Golf Course in Mason City!

In the event of rain, an alternate date has been scheduled for the following Thursday, June 22. Lunch, dinner, and green fees are included with registration, which is taken on a first-come, first-served basis. Keep an eye on the Chamber's communications to know when registration for the **Golf Outing** is open!

Tournament Sponsor:



Leadership North Iowa 2023



The 2023 **Leadership North Iowa (LNI)** program has begun! The new cohort of twenty will meet weekly through April to partake in leadership development classes, tours of area businesses, and community impact project work sessions. The purpose of **LNI** is to connect emerging businesses leaders to the area and to enhance the professional networks of participants for a better North Iowa.

Anderson Event Room

After 22 years of service to the Chamber and the North Iowa community, Robin Anderson retired as President & CEO last month. Thank you to all who attended her retirement party and sent well wishes!

In recognition of Robin's lasting impact, she received a number of honors. Mayor Bill Schickel proclaimed January 6 "Robin Anderson Day" in Mason City and Iowa Economic Development Authority and Iowa Finance Authority Director Debi Durham (on behalf of Governor Kim Reynolds) proclaimed January 5 "Robin Anderson Appreciation Day" in the state of Iowa!

In addition, the Commerce Center's third floor event space has been named the "Anderson Event Room" in honor of Robin's exemplary leadership and vision for the Chamber.



Wellness

Bike North Iowa

The City of Mason City was recently awarded \$4.5 million from the state's Destination Iowa grant program. The city's project, Bike North Iowa, will include the addition of a number of bike trails throughout Mason City, with many placed along the Winnebago River. The grant came as a partnership between local organization North Iowa Human Powered Trails, Cerro Gordo County, and the City of Mason City.

Plans for the Bike North Iowa project include new trails, connecting existing trail sections near the Winnebago river, and implementing a large Bike Park.

The Bike North Iowa project is a win for wellness in North Iowa!

Chamber is Hiring

The Chamber is hiring a Membership Director to add to its award-winning team! The main function of the Membership Director is to develop and implement a successful sales and retention program that results in increased chamber membership from throughout the North Iowa region.

The ideal candidate is someone who aligns with the organization's core values, anticipates needs, and gets things done. Someone who is proactive, totally comfortable managing multiple priorities with attention to detail, and has a positive outlook.

Interested applicants should submit a cover letter to Colleen Frein (cfrein@masoncityia.com).

Chamber Leadership

Executive Committee

Evan Raulie, Board Chairperson
Smithfield
Dr. Paul Manternach, Chair Elect
MercyOne North Iowa Medical Center
Jane Fischer, Past Chairperson
Jane Fischer & Associates, LLC
Danielle Pace, Treasurer
Clear Lake Bank & Trust Co.
Kyle Bermel, Small Business
Division Vice President
Metalcraft, Inc.
Phil Meekins, Government Affairs
Division Vice President
CURRIES
Jessica Tierney, Workforce & Leadership
Division Vice President
Tierney Properties
Todd Leet, Community & Membership
Division Vice President
Thrivent - Todd Leet

Board of Directors

Michael Davis, *IOOF Home & Community
Therapy Center*
Jeremy Holman, *Kraft Heinz*
Chris Jessen, *Heartland Asphalt, Inc.*
Janet Johnson, *One Vision*
Matt Koch, *Sukup Manufacturing*
Dr. Michelle LaCoste, *Animal Medical Hospital*
Matt Leibrand, *Stoney Creek Hospitality Corp.*
Kevin Meyer, *First Citizens Bank*
Amber Morud, *Charlie Brown Preschool &
Child Care*
Jessica Reith, *Cargill Protein*
Jenna Sheriff, *Jane Fischer & Associates*
Katy Showalter, *Window World of Mason City*
Luke Weiss, *Hoover's Hatchery*
Valerie Zahorski-Schmidt, *NIACC*

Staff

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Upcoming Events

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Professional Development

Thursday
February 2 | **Breaking Glass: April Hemmes** | 8:30AM-10AM
Anderson Event Room, Commerce Center | 9 N Federal Ave

Networking Events

Thursday
February 2 | **Business After Hours** | 4-6PM
Sponsored by Mason City Community School District
Mason City High School | 1700 4th St SE (Fieldhouse & Natatorium)

Wednesday-Friday
Feb 15-17 | **Chamber Bowl** | 11:30 Registration, 12PM Bowling
Mystic Lanes | 2571 4th St SE

Thursday
February 16 | **Croatia Info Session** | Noon-1PM
Board Room, Commerce Center | 9 N Federal Ave | or Zoom

Get Involved/Committee Meetings

Tuesday
February 7 | **Ambassador Meeting** | Noon-1PM
The Decker House | 119 2nd St SE

Wednesday
February 8 | **Agribusiness Committee Meeting** | 8-9AM
Anderson Event Room, Commerce Center | 9 N Federal Ave
Program Committee Meeting | Noon-1PM
Board Room, Commerce Center | 9 N Federal Ave

Friday
February 10 | **Band Festival Committee Meeting** | Noon-1PM
Band Festival Room, Commerce Center | 9 N Federal Ave

Tuesday
February 21 | **Wellness Committee Meeting** | 3-4PM
Farrer Room, Commerce Center | 9 N Federal Ave

Wednesday
February 22 | **Board Meeting** | Noon-1PM
Board Room, Commerce Center | 9 N Federal Ave

March 2023

March 23 | **Ag Breakfast**, North Iowa Events Center