

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, April 6

Location: Fat Hill Brewing
17 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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2023 North Iowa Band Festival Awardees

Grand Marshal Award: Ruth Miller and Rosie Hussey

The **North Iowa Band Festival** committee is proud to honor Ruth Miller and Rosie Hussey as this year's Grand Marshals. Miller and Hussey once worked for the Chamber of Commerce, with Miller serving as the first female executive director of a chamber of commerce west of the Mississippi in a town larger than 2500 people. Together, Miller and Hussey gave countless hours to the Festival. For both, it was truly a passion, not a job.



Ruth Miller



Rosie Hussey

Hussey went on to work as the Executive Director of the Girl Scout Council of North Iowa, and served as the President of the Iowa State Board of Education before retiring. But her heart has always been with Band Festival. In fact, she was honored in 2000 as the Klempnauer Award winner for her behind-the-scenes work. Rosie Hussey passed away in April of 2023. She will be honored as a Grand Marshal and family members will walk in her memory in the 84th **North Iowa Band Festival** parade.

Miller had a successful career as a banking executive, but fondly recalls her years leading the "Big Parade." She says her favorite memory was working with Ben E. King ("Under the Boardwalk," "Stand by Me") and his kindness and encouragement when inclement weather forced them to move the main stage to NIACC. Miller also recalls the challenge of searching for the brightest outfit she could find, so in case of an emergency she would be easy to spot. Her suit attire (yes, she wore a suit to Band Festival!) spanned the entire rainbow in her tenure – including hot pick and lime green!

The Grand Marshal Award was started in 1937 to recognize an individual or group who has made a significant contribution to the development, history, or success of the North Iowa Band Festival/Greater North Iowa Community, or a person of national prominence.

Klempnauer Award: Bill Stangler

The Klempnauer Award was started in 1993 to recognize an individual who has made a significant contribution to the development, history, or success of the **North Iowa Band Festival**, typically an individual or organization that works "behind the scenes" to ensure the event's success. This year's recipient, Bill Stangler, truly embodies the spirit of the designation.



Bill Stangler

As the City's Operations and Maintenance Manager, Stangler works tirelessly to ensure the **North Iowa Band Festival** runs smoothly. Often his efforts, and his department's efforts, are the items festival-goers don't necessarily notice. Everything from ensuring the correct roads are closed, bleachers are in place, and tables are set up in the park. But his work with **Band Festival** stems far beyond what is expected for his position. Stangler truly loves the Festival and has served for decades on the **Band Festival** committee.

Congratulations to Bill Stangler, this year's Klempnauer Award Winner!

New Members

CREST SERVICES

Kyle Dykstra
617 E 10th Street
Albert Lea, MN 56007
507-373-0188
kyledykstra@abhomes.org
www.crestservices.org

Crest Services is a not-for-profit provider of in-home care and programs providing services to individuals with mental disabilities, developmental disabilities and traumatic brain injuries.

LD'S FILLING STATION

Lori Schade
620 12th Street NE
Mason City, IA 50401
(641) 494-2313

LD's has been a family owned bar & grill since 2001, serving breakfast all day with a nostalgic classic car theme.

INDIGO WIND AND APEX CLEAN ENERGY

Jack Elsnes
211 Gilman St
Sheffield, IA 50475
641-381-2455
info@indigowindpower.com
www.indigowindpower.com

The Indigo Wind project provides an opportunity to help address Iowa's growing electricity demand with homegrown energy, while diversifying Cerro Gordo and Franklin Counties' economy and supporting jobs.

CORN PATCH CORNER CAMPGROUND/RV PARK

Bill Dewey
11091 210th St
Rockwell, IA 50469
641-424-4242
camp@cornpatchcornerrvcamp.net

The Corn Patch Corner Campground and RV Park is a micro RV park in the middle of the Iowa Countryside.

From the President

As some of you may know, before I joined the Chamber's staff I was a news reporter. Each year during the legislative session, I would make my way down to Des Moines to learn about and report on the "hot issue" of the year. These were generally brief visits focused on a specific topic, and as a reporter, it was my job to report on the issues, not weigh in on them. Trust me - I had opinions, but those were kept close to my chest.

Fast-forward to last month, when I had the privilege of leading our Chamber's delegation to the Capitol to meet with lawmakers and department leaders. This time, our goal was to learn about and weigh into a variety of topics. And unlike my previous career, our voices - your voices - mattered.

Talent attraction and retention, economic development tools, and preparing our future workforce were among the topics we addressed at the statehouse. We asked our lawmakers to stop letting social issues take up all the air in the room; and focus on policies that will grow our population, tackle the rising cost of living, and remove barriers (like lack of childcare) for those who want to enter the workforce.

One of the things that stuck out to me was their request for feedback. If you have an idea for a bill or policy change that could impact businesses like yours, they want to know about them. If you have strong opinions about an issue they are discussing, give them a call (or tell me, and I will!). Because trust me (again) - they are hearing from the few on the extreme left and right. But too often the majority in the middle are overlooked because they don't speak up. As your Chamber, we are your voice. Use us, and we'll make sure you are heard.



Colleen Frein
President & CEO



North Iowa Civics Bee - April 25

The Chamber of Commerce is hosting the second annual **North Iowa Civics Bee** at 1PM on Tuesday, April 25 at the Mason City FEMA Room. A panel of judges has selected twenty area middle school students to face off in the live bee, flexing their civics knowledge for a chance to win recognition and cash prizes - including a \$500 prize for the first-place student. The top three students will continue on to the Iowa Civics Bee, which will be hosted during the Iowa State Fair in August.

In order to qualify, students in grades 6-8 were asked to submit a 500-word essay identifying an issue facing their community and how they would use civics to solve it. During the live bee, the students will answer multiple choice questions about civics and be asked to elaborate on their essay topics.

Thank you to Thrivent - Todd Leet for sponsoring the **North Iowa Civics Bee**.



thrivent®

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

DEI Speaker Series - April 13

This month's DEI Speaker Series with Dr. Beth Berila will explore how Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) differ and why they matter. DEI has become a buzzword in recent years. Beth will explain how these terms relate to one another and how can they enhance a community and organizations.

Beth Berila, Ph.D. is the Director of the Gender & Women's Studies Program and Full Professor in the Ethnic, Gender, & Women's Studies Department, St. Cloud State University, where she teaches courses in Feminist Leadership, Feminist Theory, and is an Embodied Leadership Coach & Facilitator.

Beth has facilitated Anti-Racism and equity training workshops in a variety of contexts. She has served as a consultant in transforming organizations toward Anti-Racism vision and practice. She also offers group and individual coaching in embodied leadership and equity and speaks widely on these topics.

Her speaking style is engaging, often humorous, and grounded in extensive teaching experience. She will lead participants through an interactive session that combines mindfulness practices with analysis.

This session is from Noon-1PM on Thursday, April 14 presented virtually via Zoom. All participants must register through the Chamber's website to receive the webinar link. There is no charge for Chamber members who are Certified Inclusive Employers. To learn more about **Building CommUNITY** and becoming a Certified Inclusive Employer, contact the Chamber at 641-423-5724.



Beth Berila
St. Cloud State University



Session Sponsor

Breaking Glass - April 27

Breaking Glass featuring Sara Kurovski will be held from 8:30-10AM on Thursday, April 27.

In 2013, Sara Kurovski became the first female mayor for the city of Pleasant Hill. Sara's journey to this position stemmed from a career in local government, an education in public administration, and experience on local boards such as the board of adjustment, planning and zoning, and Polk county conservation. In 2021, Sara was re-elected for her third term.

In the spring of 2021, Sara set her sights on becoming the next President and CEO for Make-A-Wish Iowa. Now, she leads the team to strengthen their statewide efforts and to ensure that every eligible child fighting a critical illness in the state of Iowa can receive their wish. Sara was placed on the *Business Record's* 40 under 40 class of 2015 and was honored as an emerging woman of influence by the *Business Record* in the same year.

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. Tickets are \$10 for employees of Chamber member businesses and \$20 for non-members.



Sara Kurovski
Iowa Make-A-Wish



Session Sponsor

New Members (cont.)

THE CORNER PIZZA AND ALEHOUSE

Chris Burk
30 E. State Street
Mason City, IA 50401
641-494-5583
walshshebeen@gmail.com

The Corner Pizza and Alehouse brought New York style pie to North Iowa. These family recipes have been passed down from a shop right off of Long Beach Island. Good pie and good beer, that's their style!

WALSH'S SHEBEEN

Chris Burk
Mason City, IA 50401
641-494-5583
walshshebeen@gmail.com

Walsh's Shebeen is a quiet little hideaway that focuses on craft cocktails done correctly. Their ingredients are made with care in-house, and pair very well with the 200+ bottles of fine spirits on the wall.

OLDE STYLE MASONRY

Patrick Cooley
Iowa Falls, IA 50126
479-212-3037
patrickcooley3@gmail.com

Olde Style Masonry located out of Iowa Falls, is a locally owned mason working in North Iowa. Whether you are looking to maintain, repair, or restore, look to Olde Style Masonry.



Membership Renewals

Congratulations to the Chamber members celebrating membership anniversaries in April.

Fifty Plus Years

Blazek Electric, Inc. (58)

Thirty Plus Years

Brick Furniture (36)

Child & Adult Care Food Program (36)

SkyBlue Solutions, CL Tel (36)

D & D Printing & Custom Signs (32)

Fullerton Funeral Home (32)

Heartland Asphalt, Inc. (31)

Heritage Care & Rehabilitation Center (31)

Twenty Five Plus Years

Moorman Clothiers (28)

North Iowa Community Credit Union (28)

Slumberland Furniture (27)

Basic Birder (26)

Twenty Plus Years

Comprehensive Systems, Inc. (20)

Main Street Mason City (20)

Fifteen Plus Years

Pritchard Companies (18)

Audibel Hearing Centers of North Iowa (15)

Ten Plus Years

Absolute Waste Removal (13)

Bisbee Income Tax & Accounting Service (12)

Turning Leaf Counseling (12)

True Travels, LLC (11)

Sweet Tooth (10)



Golf Outing Registration

Start thinking sunshine! Registration is officially open for the 2023 **Chamber Golf Outing**, this year's event is scheduled for Thursday, June 15 at Highland Park Golf Course in Mason City.

Make plans to register a team of four for this friendly networking golf tournament. Registration for a golf team is \$400 for Chamber members.

Not a golfer? No problem! Consider sponsoring a hole for \$350. Hole sponsors get the opportunity to set up a booth at a hole of their choice and connect with more than 140 golfers during the day!

A rain date is set for Thursday, June 22 in the case of inclement weather. Fill out the enclosed form to register. These slots fill up fast!

Tournament Sponsor:



North Iowa Band Festival Lineup

The **North Iowa Band Festival** Committee is excited to announce entertainment for the 84th **Band Festival**!

On Thursday night, the John Adams Middle School Band will play a short concert at 6PM in the Principal Pavilion on the Downtown Plaza, followed by the Mason City Municipal Band's first concert of the season at 6:45PM.

On Friday night, the Mason City High School Jazz Band will begin at 6PM on the main stage in downtown Mason City before Des Moines based duo Tony Bohnenkamp and Andy Anderson bring the fantastic music and iconic personalities of Elton John and Billy Joel to life with the spectacular "Elton and Billy-The Tribute!" featuring spot-on performances accompanied with outrageous outfits that'll make you believe you're seeing the real thing! The show starts at 7:30PM.

On Saturday night, North Iowa comedian Day Peace will perform a live comedy set at 5PM on the main stage in downtown Mason City before local band The Sweet Nuthins play a mix of classic rock covers at 5:30PM. Then, NBC's "The Voice" fans are in for a treat when Morgan Myles takes the stage with her country flare at 7PM. Myles was the only female to artist to make the top 5 during the 2022 season, eventually placing third overall!

The full entertainment scheduled for the 84th **North Iowa Band Festival** can be found at www.nibandfest.com.



Wellness Seminar - April 20

The **Wellness Seminar**, sponsored by Clear Lake Bank & Trust, will be held from 9-10:30AM on Thursday, April 20 at the Commerce Center. This year's focus is "Burnout in the Workplace."

Across the Midwest, levels of anxiety and depression have remained three times higher than pre-pandemic levels. As people continue to better understand the impact of prolonged ups and downs in their lives, the Chamber wants to help businesses learn strategies to assist and help those who are especially vulnerable. Attendees will learn how to support healthy dialogue, address stigma, and promote emotional well-being.

Wellness Seminar attendees can expect to:

- Discuss how the pandemic and other disasters experienced over the past two-plus years have emotionally impacted them and the community.
- Assess their ability to promote a meaningful mental health literacy strategy in their workplace or community.
- Learn strategies to prevent burnout and manage feeling overwhelmed by engaging in healthy activities that may rejuvenate them.

This session will be hosted in partnership with the State of Iowa Department of Health and Human Services. To register for this session, contact Noah at nharris@masoncityia.com or call the Chamber at 641-423-5724!



Wellness Seminar
Sponsor:



Ag Breakfast Recap

The **Ag Breakfast** was held on March 23 at the North Iowa Events Center. Attendees enjoyed made-to-order omelets from Chamber volunteers and had the chance to network with sponsors.

Keynote speaker Zack Smith discussed his modern-farming operation that combines livestock and crop production so that multiple species of plants and livestock can coexist in the field at the same; harnessing the natural cycles of a plant-animal ecosystem to grow healthier animals, healthier soils, and a lower carbon footprint.

The **Ag Breakfast** is organized annually by the Chamber's Agribusiness Committee.



Zack Smith
The Stock Cropper

Event Sponsors:



Membership Renewals (cont.)

Five Plus Years

Hoover's Hatchery (9)
Ag Ventures Alliance (9)
Child & Adolescent Integrated Health (8)
Farm Bureau Financial Services – Trent Adams (8)
Scenic View Auto (7)
Dance Arts Centre (7)
Z'Mariks Noodle Café (6)
Sukup Manufacturing Co. (5)
Larson Red Zone Sports (5)

One Plus Years

First Security Bank & Trust (4)
ServiceMaster by Rice (4)
Allstate - Mark Christopher Agency (2)
Masonic Temple Association (1)
The Suzie Q Café (1)
North Iowa Touring Club (NITC) (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.

April 7 | Crest Services
Kyle Dykstra

April 14 | Friends of the 457
Dennis Wilson

April 21 | North Iowa Christian School
Steve VandenBerg

April 28 | The Corner Pizza and Ale House
Chris Burk

JHA Annual Conference quickly approaching

Mason City is the location for the Jefferson Highway Association's 2023 annual conference, scheduled to be held June 7-10.

Since being announced as the conference site in 2018, the JHA's arrival in Mason City has been postponed twice due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the challenges and ongoing delays, the VMC team and conference planning committee have been hard at work to put together an exciting and eventful conference for members of the JHA and residents from throughout North Iowa and Southern Minnesota.

Those interested in learning more about the Jefferson Highway Heritage Byway and the JHA are encouraged to attend. Registration is under way and available online at www.jeffersonhighway.org.



FY22-23 Tourism Marketing Grants awarded

Visit Mason City has awarded grant funds to 10 organizations for marketing projects that help promote the area to visitors. Each grant was awarded according to its intent to attract, retain and expand visitor spending in Mason City. Since the program was created in 1996, the Visit Mason City Tourism Marketing Grant has awarded more than \$215,500 to help fund over 366 applications.

Applications funded during the FY22-23 program include:

- **Charles H. MacNider Art Museum** for advertising and DOT signage
- **DW Productions, LLC** for advertising, print materials, and welcome reception
- **Honey Creek Rodeo** for advertising and print materials
- **Jefferson Highway Association** for print materials, welcome reception, and shuttle transportation
- **Mason City Lodging Partners** for Winter Dance Party shuttle
- **North Iowa Fair Association** for advertising
- **North Iowa Fights** for advertising and print materials
- **River City Steak Challenge** for advertising, print materials, and welcome reception
- **The Mason City Foundation** for advertising
- **Wright on the Park** for print materials and DOT signage

More information is available at VisitMasonCityIowa.com/tourism-marketing-grant.

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.



2023 INVESTMENT FORM

Your investment helps support Main Street Mason City's revitalization efforts, programming, promotions, and annual events.

Main Street Mason City is a 501c3 non-profit organization.

Your investment is tax deductible.

YES! I would like to support Main Street Mason City at the following investment level:

- ☐ **\$5,000+ MAIN STREET CHAMPION**
- ☐ **\$2,500+ MAIN STREET LEADER**
- ☐ **\$1,000+ MAIN STREET PROMOTER**
- ☐ **\$500+ MAIN STREET SUPPORTER**
- ☐ **\$150+ FRIEND OF MAIN STREET: BUSINESS**
- ☐ **\$50+ FRIEND OF MAIN STREET: INDIVIDUAL**



SCAN
HERE
FOR
MORE
INFO

I am interested in sponsoring the following Main Street Mason City event(s):

SPRING HOP PUB CRAWL

Select Sponsorship Level: ☐ \$250 Presenting Sponsor ☐ \$100 Supporting Sponsor

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE SUMMER SERIES

Select Sponsorship Level: ☐ \$2,500 Presenting Sponsor ☐ \$350 Supporting Sponsor

BREW TO BREW BIKE RIDE

Select Sponsorship Level: ☐ \$250 Presenting Sponsor ☐ \$100 Supporting Sponsor

HAUNTED HISTORIC BUILDING TOUR

Select Sponsorship Level: ☐ \$500 Presenting Sponsor ☐ \$100 Supporting Sponsor

RUN WITH RUDOLPH 5K

Select Sponsorship Level: ☐ \$250 Presenting Sponsor ☐ \$100 Supporting Sponsor

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Select Sponsorship Level: ☐ \$500 Presenting Sponsor ☐ \$100 Supporting Sponsor

JINGLE MINGLE PUB CRAWL

Select Sponsorship Level: ☐ \$250 Presenting Sponsor ☐ \$100 Supporting Sponsor

TOTAL 2023 INVESTMENT: \$ _____

☐ I am interested in an in-kind investment. Please contact me to discuss in-kind opportunities.

☐ Please contact me about volunteer opportunities with Main Street Mason City.

CHOOSE YOUR PAYMENT PREFERENCE: ☐ **ANNUAL** ☐ **QUARTERLY**

BUSINESS NAME: _____

CONTACT NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

Please return this completed form to Main Street Mason City: 9 N. Federal Avenue, Mason City, IA 50401
www.mainstreetmasoncity.com/invest



APRIL 2023

CORRIDOR WELCOMES NEW TEAM MEMBERS, KICKS OFF 2023 INVESTOR CAMPAIGN

Each March the North Iowa Corridor kicks off our annual campaign to generate private investment to complement public funding from the Cities of Mason City and Clear Lake, and Cerro Gordo County. Investors help the Corridor promote the region and implement business and workforce recruitment and retention strategies.

This year we are excited to welcome long-time Corridor collaborator Tim Putnam, former Director of the NIACC John Pappajohn Entrepreneurship Center to the team as our Partner Relations Specialist. Tim will be leading outreach efforts to local businesses and community supporters to help us build our funding base in order to further enhance key strategic priorities for the region in the years ahead.

"The positive impact of a professional organization like the North Iowa Corridor is vital to local businesses and contributes to the health and vibrancy of our communities," said Putnam. "I've worked with the team a lot in my previous role, and have always appreciated the important work they do. I am excited to have the opportunity to help engage more partners in the effort to support moving North Iowa forward and driving future growth."

The Corridor has several important priorities focused on providing value to our investors and communities. This year a core focus is on continuing our efforts to lead short and long-term planning for the region, as we believe we must be proactive in defining our future together to ensure we focus on the right things. We must continue work to build our workforce, grow our economy, and enhance our quality of place.

We are currently updating and expanding our Vision North Iowa Plan that will guide our community's growth into the next decade. The plan will further define key partner roles so we can more effectively and efficiently use community resources to achieve desired outcomes. Visit rdgusa.mysocialpinpoint.com/north-iowa-corridor-plan for more details, and share your input as we develop these important strategies.

The Corridor is investing in our efforts to retain, train, and gain talent. We have led school programs reaching thousands of students the last five years so they know they can find success here, at businesses like yours. To create more resources to build your talent pipeline, we have partnered with NIACC to create a shared Workforce Specialist position to unify our efforts more closely. Kacie Royster was hired in March to spearhead these efforts, and we are excited to create opportunities to grow our workforce from within.

We are also investing in workforce recruitment through the "This is North Iowa" campaign, promoting our region as a destination for Life, Culture, Recreation, and Career. We are currently seeking to add a full-time Marketing Specialist to provide enhanced regional and workforce recruitment materials to support your hiring efforts even more in the year ahead. Visit www.ThisIsNorthIowa.com for more.

Finally, the Corridor continues to focus heavily on new housing development. We have had great success since we made housing a priority in 2019, first with The River Apartment's 130 unit project, and continuing with multiple upper story downtown units, The River II, the Laketime Subdivision, Emerald Edge Subdivision, and many more. We will continue to work to attract and develop more single and multi-family housing projects to meet our needs, and provide quality, attainable housing to meet our workforce's needs.

If you have any questions about becoming a Corridor partner to support our mission and communities, please contact Tim at Partner@NorthIowaCorridor.com to discuss how you might participate in partnership opportunities to support economic development throughout the region. We look forward to partnering with you to drive the continued growth of North Iowa, and are grateful for the strong support we receive from our local businesses and community partners.

CHAD SCHRECK

PRESIDENT & CEO

cschreck@northiowacorridor.com

SHAUN ARNESON

VP, EXISTING BUSINESS & PROJECT MANAGEMENT

sarneson@northiowacorridor.com



Apply now for the 2023 Youth Entrepreneurial Academy

Every summer, the NIACC Pappajohn Center hosts YEA - the Youth Entrepreneurial Academy - where North Iowa high school students learn the fundamental skills of entrepreneurship. At YEA, students discover how their own talents, insights, and interests can be applied to achieve success in the real world.

Every YEA student has the opportunity to learn how to develop their interests and personal strengths into a real business, while meeting like-minded peers and learning from local business experts and mentors. Every student will receive a \$500 NIACC scholarship, and the opportunity to compete in a pitch competition for seed money to start their business. Travel reimbursement is also available.

Visit www.pappajohncenter.com/yea to learn more and apply, or contact kelly.orourke@niacc.edu.

When: Monday June 12 - Friday June 16 | 8:30am - 4pm

+ Tuesday June 20 - Final Pitch Competition | 5:30pm - 8:30pm

Who: Current high school students

Cost: Free - with thanks to the generous support of the John K. & Luise V. Hanson foundation



UPCOMING EVENTS

DeltaV Code 101 Workshop

A free class for upskilling into software development

Saturday, April 15
9am-5pm (lunch provided)

TechTalk: Successfully Running a Remote Workplace

Tuesday, April 25
5pm-7pm
Sponsored by DealerBuilt

pappajohncenter.com/events

NIACC Pappajohn Center & SBDC Staff

Candi Karsjens, *Director*

Brook Boehmler, *North Iowa Area SBDC Director*

Ashley Page, *Director of Entrepreneurship Programs*

Kelley O'Rourke, *School Partnership Coordinator*

Joyce Martin, *Marketing & Community Relations Mgr.*

Anthony Riesen, *Innovation Workspace Coordinator*

Mary Spitz, *Administrative Assistant*

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+

Chevron Renewable Energy Group

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

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



Chamber Trip to Croatia

The Chamber is traveling to Croatia November 4-12, 2023 with an optional 4-day extension to Dubrovnik. Interested travelers are encouraged to register by April 20 for a guaranteed spot and to receive the early bird discount.

Croatia features a virtually unrivaled ancient heritage boasting intriguing architecture that has been preserved for hundreds of years, including a first-century Roman amphitheater in the city of Pula. Discover the quintessential fishing village of Rovinj with its especially strong Venetian influences and the "Golden Island" of Krk. Delve into Italy's Venice and explore the truly unforgettable Istrian Peninsula. Travel along the Dalmatian Coast to captivating towns and villages from Split to Dubrovnik and beyond.

A full itinerary and additional details are available online at masoncityia.com. Contact Allyson at the Chamber (akrull@masoncityia.com | 641.4223.5724) for more information or to register.

Trip Highlights:

- Austro-Hungarian, and Art Nouveau architecture
- The Roman Amphitheater
- The Istrian Peninsula
- Venice The romantic "City of Canals" or "City of Bridges"
- St. Mark's Basilica
- Island of Krk
- The Diocletian's Palace (a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of the world's most impressive Roman monuments)
- Plitvice Lakes National Park



Trip cost: \$3,249* per person (double occupancy) | \$699 single supplement

Optional Dubrovnik Extension: \$699

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

Inclusions: International round-trip airfare from Minneapolis (MSP), transportation and hotel accommodations, English-speaking tour director & sightseeing fees, and 10 meals.

College Connections 2023

College Connections, the Chamber's intern networking program, provides a series of social and educational activities for area interns on a weekly schedule throughout the summer. Interns will learn about personality styles, managing credit, networking skills, and more. In addition to the scheduled meetings, a list of popular area recreational activities is provided to participants to explore on their own time. The program will run June 1- July 27.



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

This Is North Iowa

It's hard to believe, but advertising sales are already underway for the 2024-25 edition of the "This is North Iowa" Community Profile magazine. This comprehensive publication contains a host of local data including economic statistics, census information, workforce characteristics, and cost-of-living indices for Mason City, Clear Lake, and Cerro Gordo County.

The Chamber, North Iowa Corridor Economic Development Corporation, Visit Mason City, Main Street Mason City and other partners use these guides for professional & executive recruitment, presentations to economic development prospects, visitor information, and consumer relocation packets.

Sales Representative Michael Holmes is well-known to Chamber members. This is the sixth time he has assisted the Chamber staff with this important project. Michael will be reaching out to members this month and will continue to be available to reserve ad space through mid-June. Contact him at the Chamber office (641.423.5724) to make an appointment or reach him on his cell phone at 815.871.2631.



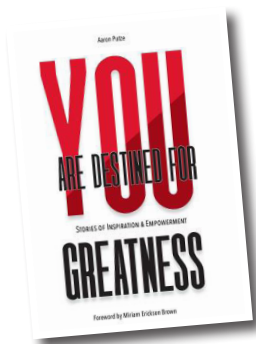
Leadership Seminar - May 3

The Chamber is hosting a half-day leadership workshop from 1-4PM on Wednesday, May 3 at the Commerce Center. Author, Speaker, Work+Life Coach Aaron Putze will lead "It's Always Personal" and teach attendees how to harness the power of relationships.

Goals and results matter, but people matter most! Be prepared to laugh and learn as Aaron tees up powerful stories and experiences gathered from life on the farm and engaging conversations with superlative leaders in business, sports, education, and agriculture. Aaron's fast-paced and heartfelt storytelling combined with compelling visuals and practical and actionable insights will motivate and inspire! In addition to being entertained, participants will walk away with actionable intel to help grow personally and professionally.

Attendees will also have the option to purchase a signed and personalized copy of Aaron's latest book "YOU Are Destined for Greatness!" filled with 16 leadership keys that will propel you to new successes!

Registration is \$40 for Chamber members and \$50 for non-members. This leadership workshop is sponsored by Chevron Renewable Energy Group.



Aaron Putze
Putze Ink



 **Renewable Energy Group**

Workshop Sponsor

STEM

The Chamber has developed and assisted with numerous workforce development initiatives. One current strategy is educating K-12 students through Iowa's STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) programming. The Governor's STEM Council provides opportunities that inspire Iowa's young people to become innovative contributors to our future workforce.

Vice President Allyson Krull serves on the North Central STEM Region Advisory Board, which has been very active in recent months. In the month of March, Krull attended BCLUW Middle School in Union, IA to view STEM programs in action, evaluated (a record number of) STEM Scale-Up Applications, and represented the council at the Osage STEAM festival. STEM is a vital economic development advantage for quality job growth in Iowa!

Contact Allyson for more information on how your business can get involved with STEM.

Wellness

April marks National Stress Awareness Month. According to the American Institute of Stress, 75% of employees believe that workers have more on-the-job stress than a generation ago. Try this breathing exercise when feeling stressed in the workplace.

1. Exhale deeply, loudly through the mouth for 8 seconds.
2. Inhale through the nose for 4 seconds.
3. Hold breath for 7 seconds.
4. Repeat as needed.

Consider signing up for the Chamber's **Wellness Seminar on Stress and Burnout in The Workplace on Thursday, April 20!**



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Upcoming Events MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Professional Development

Thursday April 13	DEI Speaker Series: Beth Berila 12-1PM Presented virtually via Zoom
Thursday April 20	Wellness Seminar: Stress and Burnout 9:30-10AM Anderson Event Room, Commerce Center 9 N Federal Ave
Thursday April 27	Breaking Glass: Sara Kurovski 8:30-10AM Anderson Event Room, Commerce Center 9 N Federal Ave

Networking Events

Thursday April 6	Business After Hours hosted by CFO Systems 4-6PM Fat Hill Brewing, 17 N Federal Ave
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Get Involved/Committee Meetings

Tuesday April 4	Ambassador Meeting Noon-1PM Awe'z Sandwich Shop, 629 S Federal Ave
Friday April 7	Band Festival Committee Meeting Noon-1PM Band Festival Room, Commerce Center 9 N Federal Ave
Monday April 10	Wellness Committee Meeting 1-2PM Farrer Room, Commerce Center 9 N Federal Ave
Wednesday April 12	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

May 2023

May 3 | **Leadership Seminar**
May 11 | **Business After Hours** hosted by Historic Park Inn
May 25-29 | **North Iowa Band Festival**