

# Business MATTERS

NOVEMBER  
2023



A Publication of the Mason City Chamber of Commerce

## A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

The Chamber's 107th Annual  
Meeting was one for the books!  
See more on page 5.



## NEW YEAR NEW LOOK

Introducing the new  
Mason City Chamber Newsletter.



# PARTNERSHIPS NOW AVAILABLE FOR 2024 TRAVEL GUIDE

The Mason City Travel Guide is the official publication for fulfilling visitor requests generated by Visit Mason City’s media, PR, and direct sales efforts. Packet with trip-planning content, the guide invites and inspires visitors from around the world to come visit and explore our community. Once here, it also serves as a comprehensive resource for visitors to make decisions about what to see and do.

Throughout the past year, the Mason City Travel Guide has been used to fulfill more than 52,000 visitor requests from all 50 states and 34 countries.

Our team is excited to get to work on the 2024 Mason City Travel Guide. New guides will be printed and available in early February 2024.

## Throughout the year ahead, guides will be distributed to:

- Visitors to the Mason City Visitor Center
- Visitor requests from our annual media buy including Midwest Living, Better Homes & Gardens, AAA Living, ROVA, Our Iowa, The Iowan, Illinois Country Living, Minnesota Monthly, Missouri Life, Nebraska Life, Our Wisconsin, South Dakota Magazine, the Iowa Travel Guide, & more!
- Welcome Bags for large group meetings, reunions, sport events, motorcoach tours, etc.
- High-traffic tourism locations throughout Mason City & Clear Lake including lodging, attractions, campgrounds, dining, retail, & more.
- All Iowa Welcome Centers.
- In digital / downloadable format on the Visit Mason City website — [www.VisitMasonCityIowa.com](http://www.VisitMasonCityIowa.com).
- State, regional and national travel shows.
- And More!



*Thank You*  
*to our 2023 advertising partners:*  
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**TOWNHOMES & SUITES**



**ACT NOW TO SECURE YOUR SPOT:**  
 To learn more about promoting your business or organization in the 2024 Travel Guide, contact Karen Jacobs ([641.422.1663](tel:641.422.1663) / [kjacobs@visitmasoncityiowa.com](mailto:kjacobs@visitmasoncityiowa.com)).  
**AD DEADLINE:** Thursday, November 30th

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## North Iowa Regional Commerce Center

9 N Federal Ave  
Mason City, IA, 50401

641-423-5724  
[www.masoncityia.com](http://www.masoncityia.com)

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



## Chamber Leadership

### Executive Committee

Dr. Paul Manternach, Board Chairperson  
*MercyOne North Iowa Medical Center*  
Danielle Pace, Chair Elect  
*Clear Lake Bank & Trust Co.*  
Evan Raulie, Past Chairperson  
*Smithfield*  
Matt Leibrand, Treasurer  
*Stoney Creek Hospitality Corporation*  
Luke Weiss, DVP Small Business  
*Hoover's Hatchery*  
Jeremy Holman, DVP Government Affairs  
*Kraft Heinz*  
Jessica Tierney, DVP Workforce & Leadership  
*Tierney Properties*  
Todd Leet, DVP Community & Membership  
*Wealth Progression Group*

### Board of Directors

Matt Bradley, *Pritchard Companies*  
Josh Congello, *Pappajohn, Shriver, Eide & Nielson P.C.*  
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Tyler Hedegard, *Country Meadow Place Assisted Living*  
Chris Jessen, *Heartland Asphalt, Inc.*  
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Amy Kaduce, *KCMR-FM Inspiration 97.9FM*  
Chad Kuhlert, *Golden Grain Energy*  
Dr. Michelle LaCoste, *Animal Medical Hospital*  
Pamela Lampman, *CURRIES*  
Kevin Meyer, *First Citizens Bank*  
Amber Morud, *Charlie Brown Preschool & Child Care*  
Mark Sainci, *Elite Boxing Academy & Fitness Club*  
Valerie Zahorski-Schmidt, *NIACC*

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## From the President

Last month, the Chamber hosted a delegation of business and community leaders from Grant County, IN for an intercity visit. As they learned about our recent big projects, the same word kept emerging: "we." So it wasn't long before one of the attendees asked, "who is 'we'?"

"We" means Mason City, Clear Lake, and Cerro Gordo County. "We" means our schools, our non-profits, our volunteer groups. "We" is a group of leaders working together to ensure we are moving the needle on community growth and development.



"We" have had a lot of wins in recent years, and it's been possible because of our willingness to collaborate and communicate. And "we" aren't resting on our laurels. Projects-in-process include work-study opportunities for high school seniors, supporting the emerging Micronesian population, and advocating for businesses who want to grow but are hitting roadblocks. These are possible because "we" are working together. And it won't always go right, people won't always get along, but our community will get there faster if "we" keep rowing in the same direction.



**Colleen Frein**  
President & CEO

## Welcome New Board Members

Each year, up to five members are elected to serve a three-year term on the Chamber Board of Directors, and the board chair makes appointments to serve one-year terms and unexpired terms.

**The 2023-24  
Board of Directors  
welcomes the  
following new  
members:**



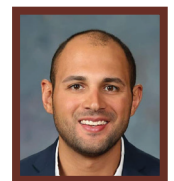
**Matt Bradley**  
Pritchard Companies



**Josh Congello**  
Pappajohn, Shriver,  
Eide & Nielson P.C.



**Troy Elwood**  
Larry Elwood  
Construction Inc.



**Tyler Hedegard**  
Country Meadow Place  
Assisted Living



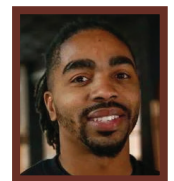
**Amy Kaduce**  
KCMR-FM Inspiration  
97.9FM



**Chad Kuhlers**  
Golden Grain Energy, LLC



**Pamela Lampman**  
CURRIES



**Mark Sainci**  
Elite Boxing Academy  
& Fitness Club







# 107th Annual Meeting Recap

The Chamber's 107th **Annual Meeting** was held at the NIACC Community Auditorium on Thursday, October 12.

Chamber President and CEO Colleen Frein led attendees through a late night talk show-themed event featuring a live on-stage band, a Top 10 list of accomplishments from retiring Board Chairperson Evan Raulie, a "Spill Your Guts or Fill Your Guts" segment with City Administrator Aaron Burnett, and more. Chamber members took the opportunity to recognize the best of North Iowa businesses.

The Chamber is committed to continuously presenting high quality events and programs for members. If you have not attended a Chamber **Annual Meeting**, we encourage you to make plans to attend next year's event. Trust us when we say you don't want to miss it!

Thank you to our sponsors for making this event possible, and congratulations to this year's award winners!



**Business of the Year**  
Young Construction



**Boss of the Year**  
Dr. Steve Schulz, NIACC



**Distinguished Citizen**  
Amanda Ragan



**Workplace Wellness**  
Iowa State University  
Extension & Outreach,  
Cerro Gordo County



**Ambassador of the Year**  
Holly Eichmann





Empowering our community's growth, Main Street Mason City is dedicated to fostering vibrant local businesses, enriching cultural experiences, and creating a welcoming atmosphere for all. Together, we strive to revitalize our historic district, nurture a thriving economy, and celebrate the essence of Mason City's unique heritage.

NOVEMBER 2023

## Main Street Mason City presents Home for the Holidays 2023

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### PRESIDENT

**Diane Arndt**, *Reflections*  
641.424.7001  
diarndt12@gmail.com

#### VICE PRESIDENT

**Abigail Lee**, *Lee Realty*  
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leerealtyiowa@gmail.com

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**Melissa Fabian**, *Simply Nourished*  
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**Casidey Burk**, *Pritchard Companies  
& The Corner Pizza and Alehouse*  
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#### CITY LIAISON

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641.421.3626  
svansteenhuyse@masoncity.net

#### PAST PRESIDENT

**Steve Bailey**, *Century 21*  
641.424.9400  
steve.bailey21@gmail.com

Get ready to kick off the holiday season with Main Street Mason City's much-anticipated "Home for the Holidays" event, set to take place on November 25th. This annual celebration promises a full day of holiday magic, family-friendly activities, and the joyous spirit of the season.

### EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

**Run with Rudolph:** The day begins with our annual family-friendly fun run. Invite your family, friends or four-legged bestie to join in on the fun! Prizes will be awarded for best-dressed (pups included). Register online at [MainStreetMasonCity.com](http://MainStreetMasonCity.com).

**Holiday Shopping:** Get a jump start on your holiday shopping and support local retailers in Downtown Mason City. Discover unique gifts, handcrafted goods, and festive treats, perfect for your holiday shopping needs at our Christmas Markets. Stop by the **Indoor Christmas Market** at Southbridge Mall. Craft vendors and in-home businesses will be set-up throughout the weekend. **NEW for 2023** – The **Simply Nourished Outdoor Christmas Market** is coming to Downtown Mason City! Shop a variety of charming, hand-crafted gifts and delicious treats made with love by local artisans.

**Kid Crafts & Activities:** Bring the youngsters for an afternoon of interactive crafts, cookie decorating, face painting, and other memorable activities. Santa will be on location to listen to children's wishes and spread holiday cheer. Don't forget to bring your cameras for memorable photo opportunities.

**Tree Lighting Ceremony:** Join us in Central Park for live music, caroling, and the grand illumination of Mason City's Christmas tree. The town square will come to life with thousands of twinkling lights, marking the official start of the holiday season.

**Food and Refreshments:** Enjoy a cup of cocoa, try some freshly baked holiday goodies, and treat yourself to a night out at one of our downtown dining and/or nightlife establishments.

Join us as we light up Mason City and usher in the holiday season with warmth, joy, and a sense of community. We look forward to seeing you at this unforgettable event!

**More information available at [MainStreetMasonCity.com](http://MainStreetMasonCity.com).**



TODD LEET, WEALTH STRATEGIST

### SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS:

Wealth Progression Group, Alpha Media, Atura Architecture, Kristy Marquis State Farm, The Corner - Pizza & Alehouse, 98.7 KISS Country & 103.7 The Fox



## Representing North Iowa in D.C.

Chamber President & CEO Colleen Frein represented North Iowa on the Iowa Chamber Alliance DC Fly-In. Frein met with Congressional and department leaders to learn how national and international issues are impacting Iowa. She also advocated for North Iowa businesses and community funding. The Iowa Chamber Alliance represents the 16 largest chambers and economic development organizations in Iowa.



## Save the Date - Picture Day

Save the date for **Picture Day** on January 11 at the Commerce Center! This is a great opportunity for Chamber members to update their professional head shot for just \$55. Christy Adams with Best Impressions will be on site from 8:30AM-12:30PM to provide lighting, a backdrop, and a retouched electronic image.

Not only that, a staff member can help businesses enhance their listing on the Chamber's website by walking through the Membership Information Center (MIC). Add details to the business listing in the Chamber's online directory, learn how to create events for the online calendar, add photos, post news releases, and more!



## Intercity Visit

In October, the Chamber hosted 16 community and business leaders from Grant County, IN. The Greater Grant County Chamber board chair reached out after Mason City was named ACCE Chamber of the Year, hoping to learn from the recent projects and successes in North Iowa.

Thank you to the community partners who helped make this a successful visit: Mason City Municipal Airport, Surf Ballroom, City of Clear Lake, Wright on the Park, Rep. Sharon Steckman, City of Mason City, NIACC, North Iowa Corridor EDC, Child Care Works, and Visit Mason City.



## The State of North Iowa 2024

**The State of North Iowa** will be held from 8-9:30AM on Thursday, January 18 at the NIACC Activity Center (AC100).

This annual event is an opportunity to hear directly from city and county leadership from Mason City, Clear Lake, and Greater North Iowa as they highlight recent accomplishments, outline future goals, and offer ideas about current business and community issues. This event complements the *Vision North Iowa* strategic planning efforts.





NOVEMBER 2023

## HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION PARTNERS TO MOVE 3 MASON CITY HOMES

Over the past year the Corridor has continued to place a significant focus on meeting the ongoing housing needs of North Iowa. To help drive this effort, the North Iowa Corridor Housing Development Corporation was created as a 501c3 non-profit to take the lead and carry out the action plan developed through the Mason City Housing Initiative created last year. The HDC aims to address the housing needs of the community by creating and preserving quality, affordable housing units.

The HDC will be able to apply for grant opportunities addressing housing needs, and partner with local government entities and businesses to create workforce housing opportunities. "Our communities have had a significant need for housing, and it has often impacted our business's ability to attract talent," Schreck said. "This isn't unique to North Iowa, as it is estimated by the Iowa Economic Development Authority that the state needs at least 23,000 new housing units to meet demand by 2030."

The first project currently underway for the HDC, in partnership with the City of Mason City, and local developer RCP Investments, is to move three houses from their current locations at the former Blackmore Nursery site across from MercyOne. RCP Investments purchased the properties and will clear the former Blackmore site and houses to create a 1-acre site for commercial projects. Rather than demolish the 3 houses, they are donating them to the HDC, who will move them to 3 vacant lots owned by the city of Mason City.

The houses are each about 900 square feet and have garages that have already been moved. The HDC is putting new basements and foundations in at the new sites and will renovate and update the houses to prepare them for sale by next spring. The goal is to provide them to eligible buyers at affordable prices. This project is being funded by a grant by the City of Mason City, and all proceeds from the sales will be reinvested into future housing projects.

Chad Schreck, the CEO of the North Iowa Corridor Economic Development Corporation, said "The project is a good opportunity to save these houses and provide more options for the workforce. The goal of the HDC is to complement the efforts of private developers by taking on projects that would not be profitable or feasible for them but can fill an important need for our community."

The HDC was established in 2022 by the EDC, which is a public-private partnership that promotes economic growth and development in the region. The HDC is a partnership between the City of Mason City, City of Clear Lake, and Cerro Gordo County, and will focus its efforts in the communities to improve blighted properties and create new housing opportunities.

The house moving project is expected to be completed by the spring of 2024, and the homes will begin to be marketed then, though interested parties may reach out to Chad Schreck at [cschreck@northiowacorridor.com](mailto:cschreck@northiowacorridor.com). The HDC will continue to evaluate future projects to create single-family and multi-family homes, and also can work with businesses interested exploring potential partnerships to create quality, attainable workforce housing.

**CHAD SCHRECK**

PRESIDENT & CEO

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**SHAUN ARNESON**

VP, EXISTING BUSINESS & PROJECT MANAGEMENT

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**ISAAC BARTZ**

SERVICE AND OPERATIONS ASSOCIATE

[admin@northiowacorridor.com](mailto:admin@northiowacorridor.com)





# North Iowa Navigators



The Chamber is looking to expand its **Community Concierge** program by utilizing community members to help in make North Iowa a more welcoming place.

This group of volunteers, known as the **North Iowa Navigators**, will connect candidates or new residents ("newcomers") with a community member who has chosen to live here and who can help a newcomer feel welcomed and connected. The **Navigators** offer knowledge of the region in terms of lifestyle, recreation, schools, healthcare, real estate, industry, and career opportunities.

For information about the application process, contact Allyson at the Chamber (641.423.5724 | [akrull@masoncityia.com](mailto:akrull@masoncityia.com)).

## Chamber Cup 2023 Results

The fourth annual **Chamber Cup** was held on Thursday, September 14 in Downtown Mason City! 16 teams competed for the gold in this friendly team-building competition. New events this year included a three legged race, pencil javelin toss, and a surprise structure-building competition at the end.

CENT Credit Union brought home the gold with first place, NIACC reeled in second place, and Bergland + Cram ended in third place. Congratulations to this year's winners and to all that participated!



## STEM Festival



A STEM Festival is coming to North Iowa! Excitement surrounds STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education in schools, the community, and the workforce. In conjunction with Iowa State University Extension, NIACC, and the Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council, the Chamber is helping facilitate a STEM festival for elementary students and families from 4-7PM on Wednesday, April 17 at the NIACC Gymnasium.

Businesses are invited to promote, inspire, and engage youth and parents to STEM careers by hosting a booth with compelling, educational, entertaining activities. Consider conducting an experiment, playing a game, or providing an interactive demonstration. These hands-on activities get children excited about careers in science, technology, engineering, and math!

Registration is free and required by December 15. Contact Allyson Krull ([akrull@masoncityia.com](mailto:akrull@masoncityia.com) | 641.423.5724) for additional information or questions about hosting a booth at the 2024 North Iowa STEM Festival.

## Building CommUNITY



## Wellness Seminar Recap

The next DEI training session will cover the Chamber's **Building CommUNITY** program. Inclusion and belonging are important, but what does that look like for businesses? The Chamber's Workforce Committee is aiming to reframe the **Building CommUNITY** initiative to get buy-in from the business community and determine what it truly means to build a place of pride, safety, and belonging in North Iowa.

This session is scheduled for 10AM on Thursday, November 30 at the Commerce Center and will cover why building a community of inclusion and belonging is important for our workforce and what employers can do to make all feel welcome. In addition to the presentation, participants will be asked to engage in an active discussion to help enhance the on-going efforts.

Registration is free for Chamber members. Sign up online at [masoncityia.com](https://masoncityia.com) or contact Allyson Krull ([akrull@masoncityia.com](mailto:akrull@masoncityia.com) | 641.423.5724).

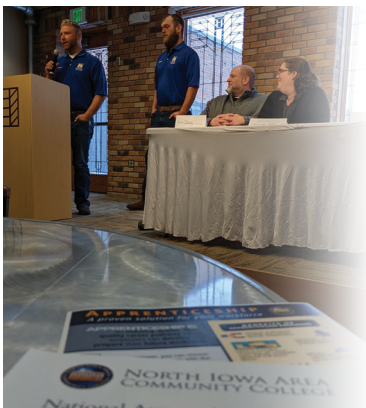
Emily Blomme, Executive Director of Foundation 2 Crisis Services, presented recently at the Chamber's fall **Wellness Seminar**. "Mental Wellness in the Workplace" covered mental health concerns, signs and symptoms, and guidance for helping others. Here are some easy actions for employers to foster a mentally healthy workplace:



- Create an inclusive work environment where people can be their true selves.
- Remember that mental health does not discriminate.
- Check in regularly with your team.
- Get to know your employees and recognize changes in behavior.
- Assess for workplace wellness and provide creative benefits.
- Work from a place of YES – allow flexibility for those struggling.

## National Apprenticeship Breakfast

The Chamber is partnering with NIACC to celebrate the U.S. Department of Labor's ninth annual National Apprenticeship Week (NAW) with a breakfast meeting at 8AM on Thursday, November 16 in the Anderson Event Room at the Commerce Center.



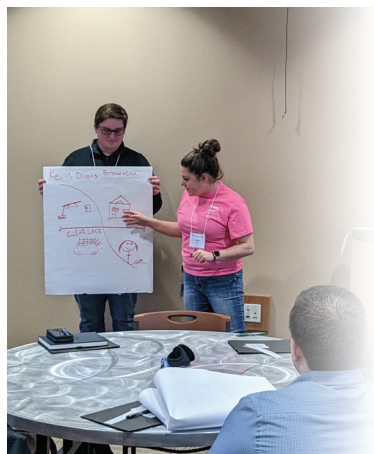
The purpose of the event is to educate employers about the region's commitment to Registered Apprenticeships and explain how these unique work-based training programs make a difference in North Iowa. Mayor Bill Schickel will make a proclamation regarding NAW in Mason City and additional speakers will include NIACC President Dr. Steve Schulz and Chamber President & CEO Colleen Frein.

The benefits of Registered Apprenticeships are substantial for both career seekers and employers. These "earn and learn" models enable employers to fill open jobs, improve productivity and profitability, and reduce turnover while providing the American workforce with pathways to start new careers and acquire the skills needed for good jobs.

Register for free on the Chamber's website by November 10 or contact Allyson Krull ([akrull@masoncityia.com](mailto:akrull@masoncityia.com) | 641.423.5724) for more information.



# Leadership North Iowa Registration



The Chamber is currently accepting applications for the 2024 **Leadership North Iowa (LNI)** program! This popular, long-standing program is designed to help participants enhance their leadership skills and knowledge about North Iowa, while also connecting them to community leaders. **LNI** tours a variety of area businesses and students complete a project for community betterment.

Tuition is \$495 for Chamber members or \$600 for non-members. Participants attend **Picture Day** on January 11 and class sessions held every Wednesday from January 17 – April 24 with a graduation ceremony on May 1. Class times vary throughout the workday and are an average of about 2 hours in length.

Applications are available online at [masoncityia.com](http://masoncityia.com) with a deadline of December 1. Twenty-five participants will be accepted into the program for 2024. Contact Allyson Krull at the Chamber for details ([akrull@masoncityia.com](mailto:akrull@masoncityia.com) | 641.423.5724).

## YIELD Project 2023

**YIELD** students have been busy the past month discovering North Iowa's community assets and learning how to recognize personality styles, lead meetings, and work together. This group also quickly decided on a project to help fill a need in the community. During a discussion about enhancing Mason City's parks, the students learned the famous Footbridge over Willow Creek, connecting River Heights Drive and South Connecticut Avenue, needed a fresh coat of paint. **YIELD** students spent several October afternoons painting 900 ft of iron guardrail at this historic attraction. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of the students, Mason City's iconic "The Music Man" Footbridge is looking like new.



## Operation Thank You



**Operation Thank You** is the Chamber's largest volunteer-driven event of the year! This networking event/annual holiday social gathering is scheduled for Thursday, December 14. Chamber staff and volunteers call on member businesses to say "Thank You" and deliver a packet containing the new Membership Directory, CMO cards, and other important information.

This year's theme, "North Iowa Holidays", will recognize the many holidays celebrated by North Iowa this time of year by coming together in holiday bliss! From 4-6PM, the Chamber will host **Business After Hours** at the Commerce Center. Chamber members are invited to stop by and enjoy food, drinks, and more!

### Networking



# Faces & Places



1



2



3



4



5



6



7

- 1 Peer-to-peer meetings provided Grant County leaders the opportunity to exchange ideas with their North Iowa counterparts.
- 2 Vice President Allyson Krull had a wild ride to the **Annual Meeting** with 7 Chamber member banks and credit unions.
- 3 Teams raced to the finish line during the "Office Chair Relay" event at this year's **Chamber Cup**.
- 4 Speaker Emily Blomme provided helpful guidance to attendees at the **Wellness Seminar: Mental Health in the Workplace**.
- 5 Chamber members joined the Chamber staff on the Healthiest State Walk in October.
- 6 The **Annual Meeting** had a great audience with lots of laughs, cheers, and appreciation throughout the show.
- 7 Guests enjoyed grilled food, prize giveaways, and live music at **Business After Hours** hosted by First Citizens Bank.



# Welcome New Members! September & October

## AGAVE AZUL

Gerardo Martinez, Owner  
125 1st St SE  
Mason City, IA 50401  
641-201-3268  
agaveazulcantina@gmail.com

Downtown Mexican restaurant with tableside guacamole and fresh margaritas.

## DREAM BARRE

Tina Wihlm, Owner  
1631 4th St SW, 107A  
Mason City, IA 50401  
dreambarre@icloud.com  
www.dreambarre.punchpass.com

Barre workouts in a boutique setting. Dream Barre workouts are a fusion of barre and mat pilates. The workouts are low impact, efficient, energizing, music driven, and effective.

## HOLY TRANSFIGURATION ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Fr. Nichala March  
1311 2nd St SW  
Mason City, IA 50401  
641-423-6238  
Orthodoxchurch.masoncity@gmail.com  
Holytransfiguration.ia.goarch.org

The local presence of the Ancient Eastern Orthodox Church in North Iowa. They offer correct glory of the One God in Three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

## BLOOMING LOTUS POTTERY

Janelle Schiltz, Owner  
Mason City, IA 50401  
641-420-4867  
bloominglotuspotteryllc@gmail.com

Unique, functional and locally handmade pottery for the home. Now offering 2-day workshops to make your own beautiful piece of pottery.

## NORTH IOWA CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

Erin Debor, Treasurer  
Clear Lake, IA 50428  
northiowachildrengmuseum@gmail.com  
www.northiowachildrengmuseum.com

North Iowa Children's Museum serves the needs and interests of children by providing experiential play exhibits and programs that stimulate exploration, learning, development, and imagination.

## HILDEBRAND REAL ESTATE

Pam Hildebrand, Owner/Broker  
412 S Federal Ave  
Mason City, IA 50401  
pamhildebrand@yahoo.com  
www.hildebrandrealestate.com

Providing a superior level of informed, professional real estate services to buyers and sellers in North Iowa and beyond.

## TRANSFORM YOGA

Katie Schultz, Owner  
620 S Monroe Ave  
Mason City, IA 50401  
641-494-8700  
Transformyoga641@gmail.com  
www.transformyogamc.com

Transform Yoga offers many styles of yoga classes including hot yoga, gentle yoga, and yoga sculpt, and therapeutic and soul flow classes for all body shapes and athletic abilities.

## BIG O TIRES

Daniel Bruno, Store Manager  
519 Village Green Dr  
Mason City, IA 50401  
641-423-3282  
Bigomasoncity@leedswest.com  
www.bigotires.com

Big O Tires is more than tires; they can handle all of your car care needs.

## MAMA DEE'S

DeeAnn Diaz, Owner  
515-825-7397  
Mamadees2020@gmail.com

Food truck specializing in making Mexican food.

## CALVARY CHAPEL MASON CITY

Adam Tyler, Pastor  
308 S Pennsylvania Ave  
Mason City, IA 50401  
641-781-1615  
adamt@calvarymasoncity.com  
www.calvarymasoncity.com

Simply teaching and practically applying the bible, verse by verse! Calvary Chapel is a Bible-focused, Bible-based, Bible-teaching church.

# Ribbon Cuttings September & October



## NEW MEMBER

### AGAVE AZUL

125 1st St SE



## GRAND REOPENING

### RIDDLE'S JEWELRY

1519 4th St SW



## NEW MEMBER

### BLOOMING LOTUS POTTERY

671 1st St SE



## NEW MEMBER

### DREAM BARRE

1631 4th St SW  
#107A



## 65TH ANNIVERSARY

### CURRIES

1502 12th St NW



## NEW ADDITION

### FOUR OAKS OF IOWA

80 N Eisenhower Ave



NOVEMBER 13-17  
#GEW2023

ENTREPRENEURS  
📍 THRIVE HERE

Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW) aims to make it easier for anyone, anywhere to start and scale a company. Diversity is a driver of innovation, and economies suffer if a group of people are underrepresented or face structural barriers. GEW reaches beyond traditional startup hubs, envisioning one global entrepreneurial ecosystem open to all. In celebration of GEW, the NIACC Pappajohn Center will be hosting various activities and events on November 13-19, 2023 in celebration of GEW. Learn more about all upcoming events at [www.pappajohncenter.com/gew/](http://www.pappajohncenter.com/gew/).

**NOV 13**

## EVERYDAY ENTREPRENEUR PITCH COMPETITION

9am - 11:30am | Preliminaries  
12:15 - 1:15pm | Finals | NIACC Activity Center

**NOV 15**

## NIACC MARKETPLACE

10am - 2pm | NIACC Activity Center  
Apply to be a vendor: [www.pappajohncenter.com/gew](http://www.pappajohncenter.com/gew)

**NOV 15**

## GROW WITH GOOGLE: THRIVE IN A DIGITAL WORLD

11am - 12pm | Online Webinar via Zoom  
Register: <https://growwithgoogle2.eventbrite.com>

**NOV 16**

## BUSINESS TRANSITION PLANNING WORKSHOP

1pm - 4pm | NIACC PC #117  
Register: <https://biztransition.eventbrite.com>

**NOV 16**

## VENTURE SCHOOL LAUNCH DAY COMPETITION

5:30pm - 9pm | NIACC Muse-Norris Conference Center  
Learn more at [www.pappajohncenter.com/ventureschool](http://www.pappajohncenter.com/ventureschool)

### NIACC Pappajohn Center & SBDC Staff

Candi Karsjens, DBA, *Pappajohn Center Director*

Brook Boehmler, *North Iowa Area SBDC Director*

Kelley O'Rourke, *School Partnership Coordinator*

Ashley Page, *Director of Entrepreneurship Programs*

Joyce Martin, *Marketing & Community Relations Mgr.*



# Membership Renewals

Congratulations to the Chamber members celebrating membership anniversaries in October & November!

## One Hundred Plus Years

United Sugars Corporation (115)

## Eighty Plus Years

Globe Gazette (89)  
Northwestern Mutual Wealth Management Company (83)

## Sixty Plus Years

Metalcraft, Inc. (65)  
Hogan-Bremer-Moore Colonial Chapel (63)

## Fifty Plus Years

Hy-Vee Drugstore (54)  
Budweiser of Mason City (53)  
Good Shepherd Health Center (53)  
Iowa Heartland Credit Union (51)

## Forty Plus Years

Farm Credit Services of America (49)  
Dental Center of North Iowa (43)  
KCMR-FM Inspiration 97.9FM (43)  
North Iowa Events Center (43)  
Hawkeye Auto Body (41)  
Northwestern Steakhouse (41)  
Wayne's (40)

## Thirty Plus Years

Buena Vista University (39)  
Martin Marietta (37)  
Mason City Youth Hockey Association (36)  
Smithfield (36)  
Mason City Lumber (34)  
Mason City Tire Service (34)  
ATURA Architecture (33)  
Larry Elwood Construction, Inc. (33)  
US Cellular (32)  
Landfill of North Iowa (32)  
Nutra Blend, LLC (32)

Mason City Glass Service (31)  
One Vision (30)

## Twenty Plus Years

Monroe Storage, LLC (29)  
Woodharbor Custom Cabinetry & Design Showroom (29)  
Americinn Clear Lake (28)  
Mediacom (26)  
Country Meadow Place Assisted Living and Memory Care (26)  
Accord Architecture (26)  
Rye Construction, Inc., (26)  
Culligan Water Conditioning (26)  
Mason City Jaycees (26)  
Cupola Inn Bed & Breakfast (26)  
Goodwill of the Great Plains (26)  
Schoneman, REALTORS (24)  
Enterprise Rent-A-Car (23)  
Touched by Grace (22)  
Alpha Media USA – KLSS, KGLO, KIAI, KYTC, KRIB (22)  
Martin Brothers Food Market (22)

## Fifteen Plus Years

Domino's Pizza (19)  
Noddle Companies/Plaza West (18)  
Brothers Ace Hardware (18)  
Hanks Plumbing Inc. (17)  
Petersen Plaza (17)  
Edward-Jones – David Stine I Holly Johnson (16)  
98.7 KISS Country/ 103.7 The Fox/ KIOW 107.3/ KCHA (16)  
Masonite International (16)  
North Iowa Youth Center (16)  
SERVPRO of Mason City (15)  
Sun Tan City (15)

## Ten Plus Years

A.H. Hermel Co. (14)  
Taco John's (14)  
Sherwin-Williams (14)  
WebWise Solutions, Inc. (14)  
Young Construction (14)  
Holiday Inn Express and Suites – Mason City (13)  
Praise Community Church (12)  
State Street Deli (12)  
SkyWorks Crane Inc. (11)  
ITC Midwest (11)  
Mason City Lions Club (11)  
Clear Lake Lions Club (11)  
Tug's Daycare & Preschool (11)  
G8 Development Inc. (10)  
Wheel Man Auto LLC (10)  
Arona Home Essentials (10)  
Crescent Electric Supply Company (10)  
Chevron Renewable Energy Group (10)  
Gary Wattne (10)  
Wealth Partners/Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC (10)  
North Iowa Collision Center (10)

## Five Plus Years

First United Methodist Church (9)  
Legacy Manor of Mason City (9)  
Gary & Sharon Lindgren (8)  
Awe's Sandwich Shop (8)  
All Things Advertising (7)  
Creative Sound (7)  
Visual Edge Technology (7)  
Fat Hill Brewing (7)  
Frein Audio & Technology (7)  
North Iowa Figure Skating Club (7)  
Premier Polysteel (7)

Mason City Noon Kiwanis (7)  
Dharma Anatomy, LLC (5)  
Community Health Center of Mason City (5)  
JP Wealth Advisors (5)

## One Plus Years

Central Gardens of North Iowa (4)  
I-35 Auctions (4)  
Glen Oaks Community (4)  
Spring Lake Townhomes & Suites (4)  
Sturgis Tax & Accounting (4)  
Wealth Progression Group (4)  
Snergy Physical Therapy & Sports Medicine (3)  
Edward Jones – Missy Freund, Financial Advisor (3)  
Crafts United (2)  
Sharon Steckman (2)  
Group Travel Guy (2)  
Dakota Fix- Shelter Insurance (2)  
Pottery on the Plaza (2)  
Bare Sugar Salon & Med Spa (1)  
QPS Employment Group (1)  
Business Ladies of Iowa Networking Group (1)  
River City Church (1)

# Premier Members

Thank you to the Premier Members who went above and beyond in their support of the Chamber programs, events, and the North Iowa Band Festival in 2022-23! Contact Membership Director Jeremiah Frein to learn more about Premier Membership.

## GOLD \$6,000+

Cargill Protein • Clear Lake Bank & Trust • CURRIES • First Citizens Bank • Holiday Inn Express & Suites • Jane Fischer & Associates • MercyOne North Iowa Medical Center • POET Biorefining - Hanlontown

## SILVER \$3,000-\$5,999

Bergland + Cram • Century 21 Preferred • Chevron Renewable Energy Group • First Security Bank & Trust • Wealth Progression Group – Todd Leet

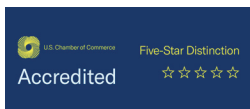
## BRONZE \$1,000-\$2,999

98.7 KISS Country/103.7 The Fox • Edwards-Brandt & Associates • Farmers State Bank • Henkel Construction Co • Hogan- Hansen, P.C. • Midwest Construction & Supply • Metalcraft Inc. • North Iowa Area Community College • Pritchard Companies • SERVPRO of Mason City • Smithfield • Sukup Manufacturing Co. • Young Construction of North Iowa



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## Upcoming Events MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Professional  
Development



Networking  
Events



Get Involved /  
Committee Meetings



 <b>Thursday November 2</b>	<b>Business After Hours - Pritchard Companies</b>   4-6PM Prtichard GMC & Nissan   4600 4th St SW
 <b>Tuesday November 7</b>	<b>Ambassador Meeting</b>   Noon-1PM Anderson Event Room, Commerce Center   9 N Federal Ave
 <b>Wednesday November 8</b>	<b>Agribusiness Committee</b>   8-9AM Anderson Event Room, Commerce Center   9 N Federal Ave
	<b>Program Committee</b>   Noon-1PM Board Room, Commerce Center   9 N Federal Ave
 <b>Friday November 10</b>	<b>North Iowa Band Festival Committee</b>   Noon-1PM Band Festival Room, Commerce Center   9 N Federal Ave
 <b>Wednesday November 15</b>	<b>Chamber Board Meeting</b>   Noon-1PM Board Room, Commerce Center   9 N Federal Ave
 <b>Monday November 20</b>	<b>Workforce Committee</b>   1-2PM Board Room, Commerce Center   9 N Federal Ave
 <b>Thursday November 30</b>	<b>Building CommUNITY</b>   10AM Anderson Event Room, Commerce Center   9 N Federal Ave

The Commerce Center will be closed for the Thanksgiving  
Holiday, Thursday & Friday, November 23-24.



## December 2023

December 15 | *Operation Thank You*

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**4-6PM | Thursday  
November 2**

**Hosted By:**



**Pritchard  
Companies**

4600 4th St SW  
Mason City, IA

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

## Be Our Guest

Hosted by **Joe Malone**

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

**Nov. 3** **Bare Sugar Spa & Salon**  
Jessica Glen

**Nov. 10** **Dental Center of North Iowa**  
Emily Adams

**Nov. 17** **Mama Dee's**  
DeeAnn Diaz

**Nov. 24** **Blooming Lotus Pottery**  
Janelle Schlitz