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Accelerating Opportunities and Growth

Marshalltown Education Partnership



By STEPHANIE
LOVELACE
T-R Staff Writer

The Marshalltown Chamber of Commerce, local businesses, and Marshalltown educators are supporting a brand-new initiative called the Marshalltown Education Partnership (MEP) that will assist students in becoming a part of the local skilled workforce after they graduate.

Through the MEP, qualified Marshalltown High School students will be eligible to receive up to half of their tuition paid to attend Marshalltown Community College.

“As educators, we believe that the best way to predict the future is to help create it, and we’re eager to help shape the future of Marshalltown,” said MCC Provost Burrows said.

The MEP was developed in response to growing fears that a critical gap is going to exist in the future between the number of workers reaching retirement age and the availability of a skilled local workforce.

To help avoid this gap, educators and community partners will work together to provide academic, cultural and financial support to increase post-secondary educational opportunities for MHS graduates.

To receive support from the MEP, students will sign a “Commitment to Excellence” contract, vowing to maintain at least a 2.75 G.P.A. and a 95 percent attendance record upon graduating from MHS. They must also have parents or guardians who do not hold a four-year college degree and are unable to send their children to college as deter-

mined by federal guidelines.

Nine eligible seniors were identified for the 2005-2006 school year and have the opportunity to become the first MEP scholars to enter MCC.

To assist participants in achieving their objective, community leaders and educators will provide them with motivation, academic counseling and personal support.

These supporters include members of the Martha-Ellen Tye Foundation, Marshalltown High School, Fisher Controls, Marshalltown Medical and Surgical Center, Lennox Manufacturing, Cartwright, Drucker and Ryden Law Firm and Wolfe Clinic.

“The MEP provides a unique opportunity for local youth to create a higher quality of life for themselves and for their community,” said Sue Martin, Martha-Ellen Tye Foundation executive director.

For more information on the program contact MCC/ MEP Outreach Counselor Sonia Hernandez at 641-752-7106, ext. 393.

Home Show is scheduled for March 10, 11, and 12

Getting spring fever? The Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce has the cure: Take a couple of hours and tour the Marshalltown Home Show and begin projects in the morning.

The Marshalltown Home Show will be a three-day extravaganza featuring all of the home improvement, gardening and lawn care services and information residents will need to get that long list of projects completed this year. As typical of the show, the Marshall Town Center will be packed with more than 80 booths set up, along with

chances to win valuable prizes.

The show has been so successful for the community and the businesses attending the event that organizers say some of the same vendors have been returning for more than three decades. Whether it is information on getting a quality, low-interest housing loans to ideas to make informed choices, as well as a way for business to get the word out about their products.

The show is scheduled for Fri., March 10 from 5 to 9
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Deb Borton and Gail Hull represent Consumers Energy during the Spring Home Show

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A new way of computer recycling



Business Spotlight

MCVB Website

An inside look at the new website



Convention & Visitors Bureau



LEADERSHIP



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"The next 3-5 years will be very exciting for Marshalltown's metro area. Many people are firmly committed to achieving our economic development goals. Patience and persistence is key."

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Marshalltown Works

is a monthly publication of the Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce, Marshall Economic Development Impact Committee and Marshalltown Convention & Visitors Bureau who collaborate in creating opportunities for business, residents and visitors.

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LEADERSHIP

Joel Akason reflects on community leadership



Joel Akason

Q: What is your educational background?

A: Graduate of Oskaloosa HS in Oskaloosa, IA. BS in Business from Winona State University in Winona, MN. MBA from Drake University in Des Moines, IA. Graduate of Economic Development Institute from the University of Oklahoma.

Q: What is your professional background?

A: Pella Corporation, Oskaloosa Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Des Moines Partnership, MEDIC.

Q: How would you describe your leadership style?

A: Forward thinking and fair. I expect organizations to be at or working toward first place performance in all aspects of business. One achieves this by taking care of the team and having ongoing communication on performance.

Q: What kind of qualities do you see in those you consider the best leaders?

A: Open-minded, motivational, and well read.

Q: How do you encourage those who work for/under you?

A: I get to know them and offer support for what it is they say they want out of life. Even if that means educating or training them to work at another organization someday. Employees will give well beyond 100% if they know you truly care about what it is they want out of life.

Q: What responsibilities, if any, do you feel leaders have to the community at large?

A: Many leaders have a vision on how they want a community to be. The only way I know how to get that community to be that way is to be involved with the vision and decision making process. Personal time and financial contributions many times are also part of this.

Q: Should community leaders be considered role models? If so, why?

A: I am a believer it is up to each individual in this world to pick their own role models. I am one who leans toward family members as role models.

Q: What is the advantage of volunteering for projects, events, etc.?

A: You to get to know more

people and feel a sense of pride and accomplishment when the task is completed.

Q: What advice would you have for young people who want to grow into positions of leadership?

A: Start now, no matter what age you are. Few naturally have the skills to lead. Leadership can be learned. Get involved with any club, sport, event, activity that teaches the skills of leadership.

Business After Hours for February 16th

Home Federal Savings Bank will be hosting its annual Chamber Business After Hours on Thurs., Feb. 16 from 5 to 7 PM.

HFSB is a full service commercial bank located at 303 West Main Street. You

are invited to join the fellowship, enjoy our recently remodeled lobby and teller area, and meet Adam Johnson, Stacy Kinion, Kayla Schular, and Georgia Stephenson who have joined us in the last year.

New Members

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Center Associates receives a grant for new apartment complex

Center Associates has been awarded a grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) which will allow Center Associates to build a 10 unit apartment complex for individuals with long term mental illness. The unit will be similar to another HUD project that was completed in 1993.

The process of applying for the grant required that Center Associates purchase an option for property where the complex would be built. The Center purchased an option for the property known as the Glick School.

The City and community viewed and presently views the Glick School to be an eyesore. The site was considered to blight that area of town. The building and potentially the area very near to the site both have the poten-

tial for further deterioration. Glick School was not amenable to rehabilitation at any level with asbestos and fire safety code being at issue. The demolition costs were estimated to be roughly \$300,000 of which half is for asbestos abatement. The situation with the building appeared to setting up as a chronic problem.

During the initial stages of grant preparation for the application, the city of Marshalltown worked closely with the Center in a cooperative venture as the council and community wanted both to support Center Associates with their project and if possible use the Glick site for the housing project.

The city council, after presentations by Center Associates, and their consultant, Mary Wymore, from Region 6 (a local multi-county plan-

ning agency) voted to support the demolition process of the school.

Half of the money needed for the demolition (\$150,000) would be designated from Tax Incremental Finance money (TIF). The other half of the cost of demolition would have to come from grants through Federal or State Funding. These grants have been applied for but the status is unclear.

The Chamber of Commerce and their annual Washington Summit, which is attended by many business and professional people in the community, to include representatives from Center Associates, was the perfect place to make the necessary connections with our Congressional offices to ask for help in acquiring grants needed for the additional demolition money. They were interested

and receptive to the need and the process.

Through the help of the Chamber and others in the community, the Center was able to contact each of our congressional offices and set up appointments to discuss the issue and ask for information about grants that might be available on the federal and state levels that might support finances and logistics needed for the demolition.

One such opportunity was the Brownfield Grant. This grant was presented by a representative from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. From this initial connection and presentation, with Region 6's help, Center Associates has been able to apply for three grants. If received, the will further support the City's contribution towards the demolition of Glick school and

therefore, Center Associates will be able to use site to build an apartment complex for individuals who have long term mentally illness, which is needed.

The Washington Summit that has developed through the Chamber of Commerce with the support of MEDIC is a highly respected and valued opportunity for our community. The process allows for citizens to better understand the governmental process and have direct contact with professionals and governmental officials in Washington.

Another Summit is on the horizon for May 2006. Center Associates will be a part of that summit and we feel is important to be a support this process good of the community.

Economic Statistics

Employment	Dec. 2005	YTD
Marshall Co. Residents in labor Force	21,010	20,960
Percent Unemployed	4.9%	5.2%
Total Employment (residents)	19,990	19,870
Marshalltown Construction	Dec. 2005	YTD
Building Permits	10	172
Residential Dwelling Units	2	25
New Residential Construction Value	\$376,000	\$4,403,000
Residential Addition/Remodeling Valuation	\$34,600	\$2,171,600
New Commercial/Industrial Permits	0	15
New Commercial/Industrial Valuation	\$145,000	\$4,658,000
Remodeling Commercial/Industrial Valuation	\$4,536,000	\$21,994,000
Housing	Dec. 2005	YTD
Home Sales, Single Family Dwelling	51	608
Average Sale Price	\$88,768	\$86,109
Median Sale Price	\$79,500	\$87,000

Visit www.marshalltownworks.com for additional statistics



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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Phoenix E-Waste Solutions handles to computer recycling

Phoenix E-Waste Solutions was founded by Mike, Kim and Brett Ladehoff in January of 2004. Phoenix applied for and received an IDNR SWAP (Solid Waste Alternative Program) grant. With the help of that grant, Phoenix formally began accepting electronic waste for recycling in July of 2004.

The concept for an electronic waste recycling facility began after Mike had served on Marshall County's landfill board. He became aware of the growing problem of e-waste and the damage that can occur from land filling these items. He also saw the need for a DNR approved electronic recycler in the Central Iowa region.

Phoenix E-Waste Solutions prides itself in customized electronic waste pick-up and disposal. All information bearing devices are handled according to customers requests, and 100 % of the electronics that Phoenix collects are processed in the USA. No electronics are shipped overseas for dumping and 100% of all electronics are recycled. Phoenix is the ONLY Iowa Department of Natural Resources fully permitted CRT collection facility in Marshall County and surrounding counties. As a matter of fact, Phoenix was the first electronic recycler in the State of Iowa to comply with the new IDNR regulations in November of 2004.

Phoenix provides all of Central Iowa with large scale pickup for businesses, as well as a drop off site for citizens

to properly dispose of their obsolete electronics at 12 South 8th Avenue (formerly Rinehart Moving and Storage). The building was purchased in 2003 after sitting vacant for 3 years.

Phoenix E-Waste Solutions success can be attributed to the many area schools, businesses and residents that regularly use its services and with the help of Iowa Valley Community College, they have been able to get their literature translated into Spanish. Many people are now alerted to the fact that discarded e-waste contains hazardous materials. If disposed improperly, they pose a potential threat to human health and the environment as well as increased liability to businesses.

Phoenix E-Waste Solutions sees a growth in the electronic recycling industry as the volume of e-waste continues to grow. The industry will continue to come under increased regulations due to the hazardous materials that e-waste contain. Businesses will need to have proper paperwork relating to their discarded e-waste to show proper disposal. Phoenix already supplies this with "Certificates of Recycling."

Phoenix is in the process of applying to the IDNR to receive their full processing permit so that it can expand further into its present facility and hire more employees. This process is expected to be completed in March of this year, giving Marshalltown the only e-waste processing site

in Central Iowa.

Phoenix started out as a small, local electronic recycler and in less than 2 years covers all of Central Iowa including much of western Iowa. They have had great success in Marshalltown, and are looking forward to growing their business locally. They feel that Marshalltown is the perfect location for their business because Marshalltown: is located 1 hour from over 1 mil. people; is centrally located between Ames, Des Moines, Waterloo/Cedar Falls and Cedar Rapids; has 4-lane access to Iowa's biggest population base only 45 minutes away; has a great workforce; maintains its small town atmosphere while providing all the services and amenities that larger towns claim; is a great place to work, live, raise your family.



Phoenix E-Waste Solutions provides Central Iowans the means to properly dispose of their obsolete electronics. Area schools, businesses and residents regularly use their services. This waste recycling prevents hazardous materials to harm the environment.

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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Home Show is scheduled for March 10, 11, and 12

continued from pg 1

p.m., Sat., March 11 from 10a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m.

A list of the businesses that have booths at the 2006 show include: 1st Rate Real Estate, A Home of Your Own, Inc., Bank of the West, Coldwell Banker Premier Real Estate, Consumers En-

ergy, Country Pine Mowers, Countrywide Home Loans, Culligan, Design 1, Greater Iowa Credit Union, Griffith Home Builders, Inc., Gutter Helmet of the Midlands, Hobbs Building Systems, Iowa Bath Systems, Iowa Telecom, Jet Karting, KDAO, Kellogg Lawn &

Snow Inc., KFJB KIX101.1, Klootwyk Plumbing Heating, & Cooling, Landon-Landon and Associates, MMSC, McFarland Clinic PC, Members 1st Community Credit Union, Mid Iowa Antique Power Assn., Midwest Construction, Myers Home Improvements, New Horizons

Realty, Nordaas American Homes, Roe & Juel Construction, Scharnweber Water Conditioning, Inc., Schendel Pest Control Inc., Screenbuilders, Shipley Custom Homes, Shipley Construction, The Bath & Kitchen Shop, U.S. Bank, Van Hamme Construction/Polysteel, Wells Fargo

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Brunkhorst*



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Thoughts From The Bride & Groom

On the day of your wedding you want things to go perfectly. The Best Western Regency helped our day do just that. From the table setup for 400+ guests to the delicious food prepared, our wedding day ended with a well-orchestrated reception. We couldn't have asked for better service. Deanna was a huge help in all aspects of our planning. She and rest of the staff at the Best Western Regency were top notch.

~ Diane (Gaskill) & Luke Brunkhorst-

Thoughts From The Parents

As a parent of a daughter getting married, you look for good quality for a good price at the reception selections. Our concerns of room for our 400+ guests and having the food plentiful and warm were erased when we arrived for the reception at the Best Western Regency. It proved to be "THE" place to be and lived up to our expectations. Not only did our guests enjoy themselves but so did we as parents since things ran so smoothly. Thank you Deanna & crew!

~ Bob & Terry Gaskill-

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February 5th

Renewing Members

**31 Members renewed their
membership in the past month.**

The renewing members printed in bold type marks those with memberships in increments of five years.

- 1st Rate Real Estate (3 years)
- AmericInn Motel & Suites (9 years)
- BDH Technology (3 years)
- Brite-Way Electric (2 years)
- Central Iowa Art Association (**5 years**)
- Central Iowa Fair (2 years)
- Centre Shoppe & Gallery (1 year)
- Chef King (2 years)
- Consumer Credit Counseling Services (**10 years**)
- Dairy Queen, Center Street (4 years)
- Des Moines Cold Storage Co., Inc. (**10 years**)
- Egleston Electric (41 years)
- Enterprise Rent A Car (**10 years**)
- Fields Restaurants (12 years)
- Drs. Hawkins and Urbanowski, P.C. (12 years)
- Jet Karting, LLC (**15 years**)
- Kwik Star #607 (12 years)
- Marshall County Youth & Violence (12 years)
- Marshalltown Board of Realtors (**15 years**)
- Masonic Temple Building/Organization (1 year)
- Midwest Wireless (3 years)
- Petty Vinyl Company, Inc. (**10 years**)
- Schendel Pest Control (12 years)
- Sherwin-Williams Company (8 years)
- Spahn & Rose Lumber Co. (**5 years**)
- Steve Badger Real Estate Services (9 years)
- Tallyho Travel, Inc. (16 years)
- Totem, Inc. (43 years)
- Willard's (44 years)
- Wolin Mechanical * Electrical Contractors (7 years)



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Iowa Valley Leadership

Leaders Are Learners was the topic for Iowa Valley Leadership's December meeting. The day started with IVL participants traveling to visit classrooms in the community. The visits and discussion with Superintendent Harrison Cass and Associate Superintendent Pat Kremer highlighted current challenges and initiatives in our schools. Dr. Cass enumerated four aspects important in building a leadership team: vision & goals, ethics & courage, relationships & partnerships and time & persistence.

Tim Wynes, Chancellor of Iowa Valley Community College District, brought an activity, "Win As Much As You Can" which led to an interesting discussion on the importance of trust and leadership.

Our lunch speaker, Terry Buzbee, President, Emerson Process Management, Fisher Controls Division, focused on the importance of the K-12

education system to local business, not only for employees but also for attracting and retaining employees. He introduced the Marshalltown Education Partnership that helps make post secondary education a possibility by providing scholarships to Marshalltown Community College for qualifying Marshalltown High School graduates. Students must sign a Commitment to Excellence Contract agreeing to attend MHS for at least three semesters, graduate with a minimum 2.75 GPA or ranked in the top half of their class, and maintain a 95% overall attendance. Preference is given to students who are first generation attendees (parents did not graduate from college with a 4 year degree) and those who demonstrate financial need.

Senator Larry McKibben and Representatives Mark Smith and Lance Horbach visited about the upcoming

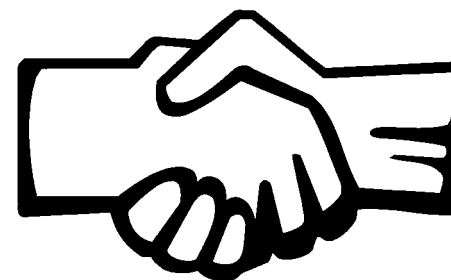
legislative session and the challenges they face while representing us in state government.

A class member summarized the day, "The overriding theme of all our speakers was that they are finding ways to make the changes in our community work positively for us... an idea to be embraced in any leadership role."

Iowa Valley Leadership is co-sponsored by the Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce and Iowa Valley Continuing Education. The mission is to inspire community stewardship through knowledge of current issues and to interact with people of great vision. The program meets from September through May, usually on the second Thursday of each month. For more information, please call the program facilitator, Betsy Macke at 752-4645 ext. 275.

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Ribbon Cuttings Happening in the Area



On Dec. 14 a ribbon cutting took place at the new Super 8 Motel located at 3315 South Center St.



On Jan. 11 a ribbon cutting took place for the new Social Security Office at their location of 2502 South 2nd St.



TOURISM

MCVB unveils new logo and invites travelers to “Make Marshalltown your destination”

The mission of the Marshalltown Convention & Visitors Bureau (MCVB) is to “promote the Marshalltown area as a destination for meetings, conventions, group tours and recreational activities with an emphasis on overnight business.” For the past few years, the MCVB has marketed its attractions and facilities to the group tour and leisure travel market. To increase occupancy and interest from large groups, the 2005-2006 Board of Directors has identified improving communication tools (website, publications, advertising) as a priority area of opportunity.

Why a new brand?

The MCVB recognizes that cities that thrive - not just survive - must be packaged and sold (in other words, branded) just like other con-

sumer products.

The new MCVB brand, featuring a compass rose image, was developed to increase interest in the Marshalltown area as a destination for meetings and conventions, sporting events, and leisure travel.

Nature Center.

“Make Marshalltown Your Destination.”

This new “tagline” is an invitation and call to action to target sports tournament planners, meeting/convention planners, and leisure/recreational travelers.

New marketing and promotional tools.

The new brand will be integrated into marketing and promotional tools including the MCVB website which has been



About the compass rose.

For centuries, the compass has helped travelers navigate. The use of the compass rose in the MCVB logo not only highlights Marshalltown as a destination of choice, but points out our strategic location in the heart of Iowa.

The compass rose featured in the logo is modeled after the design found in the foyer of the Grimes Farm

completely renovated to showcase the exciting recreational opportunities and modern sports and meeting facilities in the community. New Visitor Guides and Facilities Guides have been printed. New photos and video have been captured to reflect the friendly faces, architectural beauty, and natural resources of the area. Updated maps (city and county) are being created to assist visitors and

to promote area businesses. **Opportunities for collaboration.**

The MCVB and the Marshall County Arts & Culture Alliance have recently collaborated on a shared Calendar of Events that is acces-

sible through both organization’s websites. If your company or organization would like to post an event or link to the Calendar of Events, please contact the MCVB at 641-753-6645 or cvb@marshalltown.org.

www.visitmarshalltown.com



Above and left: New marketing and promotional tools like the website and Official Visitors Guide have been redesigned to reflect the new MCVB brand.

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Above: The inspiration for the new logo was this compass rose tile design in the foyer of the Grimes Farm Conservation Center



TOURISM

Marshalltown stop wins praise from tour participants

“Rediscovering the Lincoln Highway” was the theme for the Motor Memories Club 2005 MotorIoway 1000. Hundreds of vintage car enthusiasts traveled through Iowa in October 2005 making dozens of stops on their one-week tour. The Tour stopped at the Iowa Veterans Home for lunch on October 3rd.

were published in the Janu-



ary 2006 edition of “Running Lights,” the club’s official

newsletter. Survey respondents voted the Marshalltown stop in the top three of the “Favorite Lunch Stop” and also in the “Top 10 – Most Outstanding Part of Tour.”

Congratulations to the staff and residents of the Iowa Veterans Home! Thanks for rolling out the red carpet for visitors to Marshalltown!

Results of the tour survey



Todd Melfi, General Manager of the Iowa Speedway, explains the layout of the new facility to Tim Bell, Denny Grabenbauer, and Joe Cordt (MCVB Team members). The MCVB visited the Iowa Speedway site on Jan. 17th and met with Newton CVB officials to discuss cooperative advertising and marketing opportunities. The Iowa Speedway will open in August 2006.

Who’s Meeting in Marshalltown February 2006

Meetings/Conventions/Tournaments	No.	Location
Marshalltown Optimist Basketball Invitational	300	Anson & Miller Gym
Iowa Chamber of Commerce Executives	50	Best Western Regency Inn
Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention	25	MMSC
Boys H.S. State Swimming Championship	1,500	Community Y

February 2006

Event	Date	Location
Bingo	Tuesdays	Senior Citizens Center
Storytime	Tues. and Fri.	Public Library
Nature Story Hour	Feb. 1	GrimesFarm & Conservation Center
Bridal Show	Feb. 5	Marshall Town Center
Model Train Display	Feb. 10-19	Marshall Town Center
Nature Story Hour	Feb. 15	GrimesFarm & Conservation Center
“The Mousetrap” Play	Feb. 24-26	Martha Ellen Tye Playhouse

For the time and a description of the events above, log on to the MCVB website’s Calendar of Events... www.VisitMarshalltown.com

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CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT

FEBRUARY 2006

Upcoming MCBBD Events & Meetings

3 rd General Membership Mtg.	11:45 a.m. -1p.m.	Zeno's
7 th Keeper Awards Reception	6-8 p.m.	Tallcorn Ballroom
8 th Board Pres./Director Planning Mtg.	8 a.m.	MCBD Office
9 th Design Committee Mtg.	8 a.m.	MCBD Office
10 th Downtown Taskforce Mtg. w/RDG	8 a.m.	Iowa Valley CE Ctr.
14 th Promotions Committee Mtg.	8 a.m.	Promise Center
15 th Exec. Board Mtg.	8 a.m.	MCBD Office
Main Street IA - Design Visit		
21 st Business Improvement Committee	8 a.m.	MCBD Office
22 nd Board Mtg.	7 a.m.	MCBD Office
22 nd - 24 th Main Street IA - CID Mandatory Workshop	9-5 p.m.	Des Moines

The MCBBD - Main Street Office will move to the new location the first of February.

New Address: 216 East Main (Just West of the Orpheum Theater)

Phone Number (641)844-2001 Fax Number (641)844-2002

Meetings will be held at the office as indicated unless we do not have all the furnishings.



Thank you for your support

Our thanks go out to all who participated in the success of the 2005 Adopt-A-Veteran program sponsored by the Marshalltown Central Business District. We thank you for your generosity in supporting this uplifting event.

Because of your generosity, 62 residents of the Iowa Veterans Home, with little or no family, each received 3 gifts and a festive evening filled with music, refreshments and the thrill of opening their special gifts.

Acknowledgments go to Linda, Vern & Alanna Johnson and Arlene Selby for sharing your musical talents; to the Woodbury Service Learners, under the direction of Dana Ledbetter, who served cookies & helped distribute the gifts; to The Embers for your cookie contributions; to HyVee for your

donation of roses; to the media: KDAO AM/FM, KFJB, KIX101.1, ENERGY 106.7, KDAO TV, the Marshall County Sun & the Times-Republican; to Bill Rakers and his staff at the IVH for obtaining the resident gift requests and your part in the whole process; to Jenna Goecke, Miss Central Iowa Fair Queen for your appearance and Denny Grabenbauer who helped with the sing-a-long.

At the conclusion of the party, a resident told Commandant Dan Steen that these were the first Christmas gifts he had received in 12 years.

After hearing that story, the question has been answered. Will the downtown continue the Adopt-A-Veteran program in 2006. Absolutely!

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BUSINESS



**Healthy Marshalltown
Asset of the Month February- Asset # 34
Cultural Competence**
Young person has knowledge of and comfort with people of different cultural/racial/ethnic backgrounds.

Marshall Town Center Hours Change

For your shopping convenience, Marshall Town Center is now open Saturdays until 8 pm!

Marshall Town Center/ PennySaver/KDAO

13th Annual Bridal Show
Sun., Feb. 5, 2005

Fashion Show, featuring fashions for the entire bridal party at 3:30 pm.

For more information, please contact Lynn at the Mall Office at 752-6200.

Sign up for our eMail club! Get connected to your favorite stores through email and receive updates on mall events, store specials and sales promotions!

Visit us online at www.marshalltowncenter.com for your chance to win a \$25 Marshall Town Center Gift Certificate.

Model Train Show
Feb. 10 – 20

New Star Discovery Baby Contest
Sat., Feb. 11



Treat Your Sweet!

With Valentine's Day just around the corner, Marshall Town Center is your headquarters for the perfect gift for your sweetheart.

Pick up the perfect piece of jewelry from Kay Jewelers or Riddle's Jewelry and register in store for your chance to win a Dinner & a Date package.

You'll pick up a gift certificate for dinner at House of Chen or Diamond Dave's, two movie tickets to Plaza 9 Theatres and chocolates from Coach House Gifts.

No purchase necessary. Must be 18 years of age or older. Mall employees not eligible. One registration per person per day please. Void where prohibited.

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BUSINESS

Ambassador Courtesy Calls



On Jan. 10 the Ambassadors met with Marcus Woerner, the new owner of Sub City, at their location of 8 East Main St.



Also on Jan. 10 the Ambassadors met with AIG Financial Advisors, Inc. at their location of 25 South Center St. (formerly SunAmerica Securities)

F & M Bank encourages community involvement

The Marshalltown Young Professionals (MYP), a new organization, provides networking, social and professional development opportunities to young professionals.

Many employers have encouraged their young employees to join MYP, developing their network of local contacts, as well as getting involved in the community.

Whether they get involved in the Marshalltown Young Professionals or another community group, Dan Hassman, President of F & M Bank reflects on the importance supporting employees' community involvement.

Volunteering is ironic in its nature. What do I mean by that? We are asked to give of our time and resources when we volunteer. We go into it knowing there is a cost and the cost is usually higher than we were told. However, seldom do we walk away after we volunteered not feeling that the rewards far out weigh the cost.

Some rewards are obvious. In the banking industry we are expected to give to the community. Volunteering

gives us the opportunity to learn who the movers and shakers in the community are as they tend to create business opportunities where they go. Each meeting, event or assignment allows us to build relationships with community members which are key to our business success. It gives the community an opportunity to get comfortable with our people. People like to do business with people they know.

Strong community volunteering builds strong communities that are attractive to new business. In a recent opportunity to volunteer, I hosted a young professional for a day as he was considering a move to Marshalltown. As we drove through downtown he was very impressed with the appearance and the activity level of our downtown. I couldn't help but think of the many hours of time donated by the local CBD Main Street group that has been instrumental in shaping the downtown. That young professional is moving to town, in part because of the community spirit he felt while visiting. Communities

that have a strong volunteer base are attractive to potential residents.

Some rewards are less obvious, but potentially more powerful. If you have ever helped a child learn addition facts and observed the delight of learning when learning is hard; or been greeted at the door by someone so grateful for the meal you are delivering and you realize the real priorities in life; or you have parents of the child they "knew" couldn't hit a softball tell you how excited they were that their child got a hit today; or you fill in the blank - you know what I mean. I guess that is why when Jesus was asked what the greatest commandment was, he responded to love the Lord your God and to love our neighbor as our self.

Yes, volunteerism is costly to our businesses and to us individually. It is an investment of money and resources. It is an investment that can yield tremendous returns for our organizations and us individually. Where will you make your next investment? Our community needs you.

www.everydaychampions.org



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BUSINESS

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BUSINESS

Series of Gubernatorial Forums



Betsy Macke, Iowa Valley Leadership; Michelle Sponheimer, Marshalltown Jaycees; Congressman Jim Nussle; Bianca Greazel, Marshalltown Young Professionals; Mike Miller, MEDIC Chairman; and Amy Pieper, Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce.

Marshalltown Young Professionals, Marshalltown Jaycees and Iowa Valley Leadership are hosting a series of forums focusing on candidates for Governor of Iowa. If you are interested in finding out more about the Candidates for Governor this is your opportunity. The series of forums will be on the first and third Friday through March from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm at the Fisher Community Center, 709 S. Center St. Bring your lunch and come hear more about the candidates visions for the State of Iowa. The first forum was on January 6 with Congressman Jim Nussle, Republican. Mike Blouin, Democrat spoke on January 20.



Robin Angstman, Marshalltown Jaycees; Michael Blouin, candidate for Governor of Iowa; Denise Case, Marshalltown Young Professionals; and Clarissa Thompson, Iowa Valley Leadership Class Member.

Schedule of future forums:
February 3 – Bob Vander Plaats, Republican
February 17 – Chet Culver, Democrat
March 3 – Ed Fallon, Democrat
March 17 – Patty Judge, Democrat



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