

Chamber Digest

March 2009

Volume 26 Issue 10



Upcoming Events

March 13 - 15: Home & Garden Show
Marshall Town Center

March 19: Business After Hours
Clapsaddle-Garber Associates, 5 - 7pm

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Spring Home & Garden Show



If the cold weather and snow-covered ground have you looking forward to spring, mark your calendars and plan to attend the Spring Home Show March 13 – 15, hosted by the Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce.

The Spring Home Show is a three-day event featuring home improvement, cleaning, decorating, gardening, lawn care, and other home-related products and services any homeowner will need to get started on those spring and summer projects. More than 50 booths will be set up throughout Marshall Town Center, with chances to win over \$3,500 in prizes, including a grand prize of Marshalltown Area Dollars, sponsored by a number of Home Show vendors.

“This show is a great way to get ideas for

your home improvement projects,” said Lynn Olberding, Director of Membership and Marketing. “Attendees will have a chance not only to talk to vendors, but also to win some fantastic prizes.”

Show times are 5:00 – 9:00 p.m., Friday, March 13; 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Saturday, March 14 and Noon – 5:00 p.m., Sunday, March 15.

“Booth space is still available,” said Olberding. “Booths are reserved on a first-come, first-serve basis and per electrical needs.”

If you have a product or service that you would like to display at the Spring Home Show, contact Olberding at the Chamber office at 641-753-6645 or download registration materials online at www.marshalltown.org.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

SportsPlus Sports Medicine & Physical Therapy

Each year, the trainers and staff at SportsPlus Sports Medicine and Physical Therapy (32 East Main Street) help approximately 10,000 patients with physical therapy rehabilitation or one of the many other services the clinic provides.

“I grew up twenty miles from Marshalltown on a farm near Gilman where my parents still live. I graduated from SEMCO [now East Marshall] high school and went to the University of Iowa,” said SportsPlus owner and trainer Scott Carnahan. “I graduated with athletic training degree, went on to Western Illinois University with Masters Degree in Physical Education, then went to the University of Iowa for a Masters in Physical Therapy degree.”

After his many years of school, Carnahan put his education to work at the University of Wisconsin Hospitals & Clinics in Madison, WI, Covenant Medical Center - Sports Injury Clinic in Waterloo and AthletiCo Physical Therapy in Chicago, IL.

“After having opened two clinics for AthletiCo in Chicago and learning a lot about the business and customer service side of things from the owner and friend Mark Kaufman, my wife and I were ready to get back close to home and family. We felt like God was leading us back to Marshalltown and to open the business here,” Carnahan said.

In June, the clinic will celebrate ten years of serving the Marshalltown area and providing services such as physical therapy rehabilitation, functional capacity evaluations, Pre Work Screens (PWS), Functional Job Analysis, Peak Performance Enhancement program, body fat percentage testing, fitness testing, development of fitness programs and Athletic Training Services to area schools (East Marshall, West Marshall, GMG, South Tama County, Marshalltown Middle Schools, and MCC).

Carnahan believes in giving back to the community, not just through the support he provides local athletes, but also through his support of community events and project. He is also a nearly ten-year member of the Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce.

“I think it’s important to be a Chamber Member and support the Chamber because it works for the business community of Marshalltown and for the community as a whole to help promote local businesses. It is a source of information as well, helping to keep business people in tune with things that are going on in other parts of the state and country. I also think that by being a Chamber member, it lends some credibility to a company and lets others know that the business is willing to be invested in the community and is going to help to make the community a stronger place,” he said.



One of the many services SportsPlus provides is athletic training for a number of local high schools.



Carnahan and his 15 employees at SportsPlus all work towards a common goal: To help you achieve your goal of being restored to an optimal level of health so that you can return to doing all those things you love to do. They believe that a posi-

tive, friendly, fun and professional atmosphere provides the ideal environment for you to recover from injury.

“Our mission is to provide exceptional, progressive, and cost-effective outpatient physical therapy, athletic training, and industrial services that emphasize individual care, patient education, and prevention of future injury to the residents of Marshalltown and the surrounding communities,” said Carnahan. “The reason our business has been successful in Marshalltown is because of the outstanding employees at SportsPlus. It is because of their positive, caring and helpful attitudes and their expertise in their jobs that has enabled us to provide the services that we do and to experience the steady growth that we have seen over the last 10 years.”

Whether you’ve suffered from a work-related, athletic or other type of injury, you’ll be sure to find the kind of helpful and friendly service you need to feel 100% again from the staff at SportsPlus.

New Members

Following is a list of businesses that have invested in the greater community by joining the Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce.

Please support these businesses when making purchases and business decisions.

Pearce McClenathan

Bill Pearce, President

31 South 1st Street

Marshalltown, IA 50158

641-753-5480

Bill Pearce recently took over the bookkeeping and accounting services of Ken McClenathan, who has provided services in the Marshalltown area for more than 25 years. Pearce McClenathan also provides corporate payroll and personal tax services.



View past issues of the Chamber Digest on-line at www.marshalltown.org.

LEADERSHIP

Chamber Chair: Ric Anderson **MCVB** Chair: Dennis Grabenbauer **MEDIC** Chair: Bill Grabe



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MCVB



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MCVB Director

709 South Center Street
P.O. Box 1000
Marshalltown, IA 50158
Phone: 641-753-6645
Fax: 641-752-8373
Email:
info@marshalltown.org

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



Board of Directors

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Don Turbiville
Kenn Vinson
Glenn Ytzen

Ex-Officio

Marvin Wade
Dick Hierstein
Mark Smith
Steve Soddors
Karen Squires
Tim Wynes

Thank You Reinvesting Members



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

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Accu-tax | 9 |
| Ace Precision | 7 |
| Chalet | 15 |
| Country Financial | 4 |
| Country Pine Mowers | 12 |
| Conrad Dejardin | 11 |
| Hogeland Auto | 4 |
| Ideal Home Inspections | 1 |
| Iowa Bath Systems | 6 |
| Isle of Green | 14 |
| KDAO | 30 |
| Kwik Star | 14 |
| Linn Valley Apartments | 13 |
| Marshall Co. Conservation | 1 |
| Martha-Ellen Tye Foundation | 7 |
| Morgan-Hauser | 13 |
| Schendel Pest Control | 14 |
| Sherwin-Williams | 10 |
| Youngers | 48 |

For a complete list of Chamber members, visit www.marshalltown.org.

CORRECTION: Please note that in the February issue of the Chamber Digest, the Tremont Grille's membership was incorrectly reported. The Tremont Grille has been a Chamber member for 14 years.

Are you ready to increase your website traffic?
Contact Lynn at 641-753-6645 about online directory upgrades!
Visit the Chamber website at www.marshalltown.org

Business After Hours

March 19, 2009
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Clapsaddle-Garber Associates
16 East Main Street

April 2009
Business to Business Showcase
Available for sponsorship

May 2009
Available for sponsorship

June 2009
Available for sponsorship

July 15, 2009
Central Iowa Fair
1308 East Olive Street

2009 dates still available - contact Lynn Olberding at the Chamber office to schedule a Business After Hours event at your business. There are also opportunities to host a Business to Business Showcase.

These events are great ways to promote your business!

CPA

Roger F. Hackman,

CPA, P.C.

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Marshalltown, IA 50158

(641) 752-3024

Fax (641) 753-3942

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E-Mail: rghack@marshallnet.com

FACES & PLACES

Faces & Places is a new feature in the Chamber Digest. Each month this column will feature information about Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce members and volunteers. **Faces & Places** is a great way to utilize your Chamber membership.

Submissions may include grand openings, management changes, employee promotions, moves, expansions, major developments and award recognition. Submissions may include a photograph, if provided in a JPEG format.

Due to space limitations, each item for **Faces & Places** should be no more than three sentences in length. The editor reserves the right to determine what is newsworthy and included in the column. Items that will not be accepted include: email changes, seminars or special event promotions that would be better addressed through advertising venues.

To submit your news, email lolberding@marshalltown.org and put **Faces & Places** in the subject line, or mail information to **Faces & Places**, P.O. Box 1000, Marshalltown, IA 50158. Submissions must be received by the 10th of the month for inclusion in the following month's Chamber Digest.

www.marshalltown.org Statistics

| | Jan 09 | YTD Total | Avg/Month |
|------------------|---------|-----------|-----------|
| Unique Visitors | 3,052 | 3,052 | -- |
| Number of Visits | 4,577 | 4,577 | -- |
| Page Views | 44,262 | 44,262 | -- |
| Hits | 124,996 | 124,996 | -- |

4% of January visitors to the Chamber website stayed 30 minutes or longer. 7.3% stayed on the site between 5 and 29 minutes.

Don't forget to check the chamber website for business directory information, event photos, program information and calendar of events.

Want to upgrade your online business directory listing?

Contact Lynn Olberding at the Chamber office for more information.

Mary Katherine's to celebrate 1st anniversary of Studio 119



Mary Katherine's Bridal located at 119 East Main Street is celebrating the one-year anniversary of Studio 119, a Prom Shop for Guys and Gals, which opened in the lower level of the brial shop, prior to the Prom 2008 season.

Studio 119 had a "soft" opening in early 2008 and found that the prom-goers of the area welcomed the opportunity to purchase their prom attire locally. This year Studio 119 offers a larger selection of prom gowns for gals, featuring sought out styles from Flirt, Mori Lee, Riva, Milano, Envi and more.

"I market in Atlanta and purchased the same top lines of gowns the girls seek out in Des Moines and other large cities. Most of my customers are telling me that our prices are lower, our dresses more cared for and they enjoy the service we offer," Owner Mary Curley said.

Additionally, Mary Katherine's offers a variety of tuxedo rental options to dress the local guys for their Prom night.

"We are seeing lots of repeat customers in Studio 119 this year and it's fun to have the opportunity to dress area guys and girls again," said Curley. "Shopping locally stimulates our economy, saves you money on purchases and gas, as well as affords our business the ability to make contributions to area After Prom events."

Studio 119 is located in the lower level of Mary Katherine's, at 119 East Main Street. Store hours are Tues & Fri 10:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Wed and Thurs 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. and Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. and closed on Sunday and Monday.

For more information, coupons and a display of gowns, visit www.studio119.biz.

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BUSINESS NEWS

Luncheon to honor elected officials

Local elected officials will be recognized for their work during the 2nd Annual Appreciation Luncheon at noon on April 24 at Iowa Valley Continuing Education's DeJardin Hall.

The lunch, hosted by the Marshalltown Development Foundation in partnership with IVCE, the Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce and the Times-Republican, is open to the public and will again this year feature a key note presentation by David Okerlund and recognition of local, state and federal elected officials.

The guest list includes Senators Tom Harkin and Charles Grassley, Representative Tom Latham, State Senator Steve Soddors, State Representative Mark Smith, Mayor Gene Beach, Marshall County Supervisors and administration, Marshalltown City Council, Marshalltown and Iowa Valley school board members.

Motivational humorist David Okerlund will present "Mama never taught me to drive a garbage truck," an address on how to maintain a positive attitude in times of change.

Registration is \$15. Please register through Iowa Valley Continuing Education by phone 641-752-4645, in person at 3702 South Center Street, or online at www.iowavalley.com. When requesting tickets, please reference IVCE course CPD8100801. Please register by April 17.



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CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

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

March 2009

| Event | Date | Location |
|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Bingo | Tuesdays | Senior Citizens Center |
| StoryTime | Tues. & Fri. | Public Library |
| Downtown Tot-Town | Tues, Thurs. & Fri | Veterans Coliseum |
| "Romantic Comedy" | March 1 | Martha Ellen Tye |
| Nature's Story Hour | March 4 | GrimesFarm & Conservation |
| Thrift Sale | March 5-7 | IVCE DeJardin Hall |
| "Romantic Comedy" | March 6-7 | Martha Ellen Tye |
| Sports Show | March 7-8 | Veterans Coliseum |
| Spring Home Show | March 13-15 | Marshall Town Center |
| "Tree Trimmer" | March 17 | Fisher Community Center |
| Nature Story Hour | March 18 | GrimesFarm & Conservation |
| Open House | March 21 | Historical Museum |
| Radio Auction | March 23-26 | KFJB Radio (AM 1230) |

Post your 2009 events on the MCVB self-posting calendar at www.visitmarshalltown.com

March 2009

| Date | Group | Location |
|-------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| March 4-6 | IA Water Pollution Control | BWRI |
| March 7-8 | Y State Swim Meet | Community Y |
| March 26-29 | IA Taxidermist Association | BWRI |

Thank you for making Marshalltown your destination!



Tourism Fun Fact

According to the 2008 Iowa Welcome Center Survey Report, travelers in Iowa spent more money in the state in 2008 versus 2007. Travel party spending per day on lodging, entertainment, transportation, food and shopping increased 15.3 percent from \$223.66 in 2007 to \$257.93 in 2008.

During 2008, 20 Iowa Welcome Centers served nearly 500,000 individuals and over 200,000 travel parties. These travelers spent an estimated \$196 million during their trips in Iowa.

Plan to attend the



Home & Garden Show

Friday, March 13: 5:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 14: 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 15: Noon - 5:00 p.m.

Marshall Town Center
2500 South Center Street - Marshalltown

For more information,
visit www.marshalltown.org.

www.everydaychampions.org

CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

Iowa Tourism Industry Showcase

Iowa Tourism Supporters hosted the 20th annual Tourism Showcase for Legislators at the Iowa State Fairgrounds on February 3.

More than 70 communities showcased their attractions, events and businesses to remind the 105 Legislators that attended about the abundance of "Things to Do" in our great state.

The Marshalltown Convention & Visitors Bureau and John Ernest Vineyard and Winery hosted a booth together at the showcase. Shannon Espenscheid, MCVB Director, Shauna Banks, MCVB Assistant and Jamie Busch-Upah, John Ernest Vineyard and Winery were among other tourism leaders who visited with Legislators to thank them for their past support of tourism development and promotion and to discuss the challenge of finding funds to promote Iowa.

"The economic impact of tourism expenditures in Iowa continues to grow at a pace faster than the rest of the nation," said Kathy Dirks, President of the Travel Federation of Iowa. According to an economic impact study completed by the Travel Industry Association of America, Iowa tourism generated expenditures grew 7.6 percent in 2007, outpacing the national average of 5.7 percent.

In 2007, travelers in Iowa generated \$6.3 billion in spending at local businesses in communities throughout the state. These dollars in turn, generated \$307.7 million in state tax receipts for Iowa.



Pictured (from left): State Representative Mark Smith, MCVB Director Shannon Espenscheid, MCVB Assistant Shauna Banks, John Ernest Vineyard & Winery Manager Jamie Busch-Upah.

MCVB Director elected to IGTA

Shannon Espenscheid, MCVB Director, has been elected to serve a three year term on the Iowa Group Travel Association (IGTA) Board of Directors. Espenscheid began her term in January.

IGTA membership consists of destination marketing organizations, attractions, lodging properties and grassroots organizations. As the only statewide organization dedicated to promoting Iowa as a group tour destination, members are represented in a variety of different ways. One way the organization does this is by attending seven trade shows throughout the Midwest. While attending the tradeshow, representatives are able to answer questions on all IGTA member so leads can be given to specific locations or attractions. IGTA also mails a direct sales lure piece to nearly 2,000 group tour planners. Tour planners can then request specific information from IGTA.

For more information on IGTA, please visit www.iowagrouptour.org or call the MCVB office at 641-753-6645.



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- 2/27 Beef Noodle Soup & Roast Beef Swiss Ciabatta
- 2/28 Cream of Pork Potato Soup & Hot Ham & Swiss
- 3/01 Chicken Dumpling Soup & Chicken Tender Melt
- 3/02 Beef Barley Soup & French Dip
- 3/03 Italian Sausage Soup & Meatball Sandwich
- 3/04 Killian's Irish Stew & Ryebein Sandwich
- 3/05 Broccoli Cheddar Soup & Club Wrap
- 3/06 Chicken Tortilla Soup & Steak Fajita Wrap
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AMBASSADORS VISITS



The Chamber Ambassadors visited Hartwig Plumbing (1002 West Lincoln Way) on January 27 to celebrate the business's 50 years as a member of the Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce. The plumbing company joined the chamber in October of 1958.



United Way Director Nancy Steveson greeted the Chamber Ambassadors, who stopped by to visit the organization on January 27. The Ambassadors thanked Steveson for the United Way's 40 years as a Chamber member and congratulated her on the successful 2008/2009 United Way campaign.



US Bank (123 West Main Street) President Scott Neff, bank employees and the Chamber Ambassadors enjoyed a rare warm, sunny February day to celebrate the bank's nearly 45 years as a member of the Chamber during a February 10 courtesy call.



The Chamber Ambassadors visited Bill Pearce, owner of Pearce McClenathan Accounting to celebrate the grand opening of the new business located at 31 South 1st Street with a ribbon cutting on Tuesday, February 10.

Request a Ribbon Cutting or Courtesy Call at your location.

The Ambassadors are the goodwill arm of the Chamber.

Their scheduled time for courtesy calls and ribbon cuttings are at

4:30 p.m. and 4:45 p.m. on the second and fourth
Tuesday of the month.



Please contact the Chamber office if you would like to schedule a visit at your business.

Contact 641-753-6645 or lolberding@marshalltown.org.

Listen weekly to

Chamber Chat

Sunday Mornings

6:30 am on 99.5

KDAO FM

7:30 am on 1190

KDAO AM

Keep up with the latest Chamber, MCVB and MEDIC news.

BUSINESS NEWS

Reserve a Booth for Job Fair 2009

On Wednesday, April 1, the Marshalltown Community College new Student Activity Center, will welcome job seekers and employers for the annual Job Fair. Exhibitors from across Central Iowa will display information on job and career opportunities, as well as, education and training options available to those seeking employment or education for a new job or career change. The event is runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., is free and open to the public.

Jim Merritt, Director of the Career and Employment Center on the MCC campus says there will be a special emphasis on job seeking services, training, and resources this year, with multiple workshops and information areas ready to assist those seeking employment.

Area employers interested in reserving space for a booth at Job Fair 2009 should do so very soon. The deadline for exhibitors' reservations is the end of February and there are a limited number of display spaces. Previously participating businesses will receive letters of invitation, however all employers are welcome.

If you have questions or if you would like to reserve a booth location contact Jim Merritt, Director, Career and Employment Center, at 641-844-5779, Jim.Merritt@iavalley.edu; or Sandy Supianoski, Director, Employment Specialist, by phoning 641-844-5780 or at Sandy.Supianoski@iavalley.edu.



Chamber offers social networking

The Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce recently added another feature to the list of membership benefits: Facebook.com.

Founded in 2004, Facebook.com offers millions of users opportunities to connect and network with friends and colleagues from across the county and around the globe. The Chamber recently created a "Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce" group on Facebook.com, allowing Chamber members to share ideas, ask question, engage in discussions and network online.

To utilize this membership benefit, you must have a Facebook account. Facebook accounts are free of charge.

Once you have an account, search for "Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce" and ask to be added to the group. This is a great way to stay in touch with other business professionals in the community.

The Marshalltown Young Professionals also have an online group on Facebook.com. All MYP members who have a Facebook account are encouraged to join the "Marshalltown Young Professionals" group.

Both groups are utilizing the Discussion Board feature of Facebook to identify and discuss issues impacting your business.



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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Comparison of year-end economic indicators

| Labor Summary | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 | 2005 |
|------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Marshall County | | | | |
| Laborforce | 20,576 | 20,970 | 21,110 | 20,960 |
| Unemployed | 1,010 | 830 | 800 | 1,090 |
| Percent Unemployed | 4.9% | 4.0% | 3.8% | 5.2% |
| Total Employment | 19,560 | 20,140 | 20,310 | 19,870 |

| | | | | |
|---------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Marshalltown | | | | |
| Laborforce | 12,970 | 12,910 | 13,080 | 12,930 |
| Unemployed | 680 | 530 | 500 | 620 |
| Percent Unemployed | 5.2% | 4.1% | 3.8% | 4.8% |
| Total Employment | 12,290 | 12,390 | 12,580 | 12,310 |

Source: Iowa Workforce Development

Housing Sales - Marshalltown

| | | | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| New Listings | 875 | 1,076 | 1,067 | 1,077 |
| Single Family Home Sales | 444 | 501 | 608 | 608 |
| Sales Volume (approximation in millions) | | | | |
| Average Sale Price | \$46 | \$54 | \$65 | \$52 |
| Median Sale Price | \$103,048 | \$107,557 | \$107,579 | \$86,109 |
| Median Sale Price | \$90,000 | \$95,000 | \$92,000 | \$87,000 |

Source: Marshalltown Board of Realtors

Building Reports - Marshalltown

| | | | | |
|---|-------|-------|------|------|
| Total Permits | 206 | 181 | 232 | 224 |
| Total Valuation (approximation in millions) | | | | |
| Total Living Units | \$49 | \$39 | \$17 | \$33 |
| | 68 61 | 48 35 | | |

Source: Marshalltown Building Official

Vehicle Sales Totals - Marshall County

| 2008 | 2007 | 2006 | 2005 |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| \$68,965,703 | \$66,023,328 | \$64,017,020 | \$62,883,640 |

Retail Sales Tax Report - Marshall County

| | FY 2008 | FY 2007 | FY 2006 | FY 2005 |
|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Number of Businesses Reporting | 3,937 | 3,982 | 3,669 | 3,716 |
| Taxable Sales | \$349,078,209 | \$334,897,482 | \$336,815,292 | \$329,775,383 |
| Taxes Generated | \$17,501,211 | \$16,744,966 | \$16,840,900 | \$16,560,065 |

Source: Iowa Department of Revenue

Unemployment data and services

According to Iowa Workforce Development, Marshalltown's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose to 7.5% in December from 6.4% in November. This was substantially higher than the 5.5% rate in December a year ago. Marshall County's unemployment rate rose from 5.8% in November to 6.8% in December. This is 1.2% higher than last year's December rate. Iowa's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate edged up to 4.6% in December from the 4.3% in November. This is significantly higher than the 3.8% one year ago.

Nationwide, joblessness is now rising and increasing number of people are finding themselves in an unfamiliar position: unemployed. Help for those that have been left behind can be found at Iowa Workforce Development Centers. From unemployment benefits to job search workshops to resource centers, Iowa Workforce Development offices are there to help.

The Marshalltown Workforce Center is located at 3405 South Center Street. In addition to unemployment services, this regional workforce office has a resource center that provides information on how to create different types of resumes and cover letters, job seeking and skill videos and career information. It also offers a wide-range of workshops on a rotating basis.

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BUSINESS NEWS

Campaign Training for Women

Registraton is underway for the 2009 Ready to Run™ Iowa campaign training school, scheduled for Friday, April 3 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Scheman Building on the Iowa State University campus.

Ready to Run™ Iowa is a one-day, comprehensive, bi-partisan campaign training workshop offered every other year by the Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics and the Ames League of Women Voters. The day-long session addresses topics unique to women as they seek greater participation in the political process, however the campaign school is open to anyone interested in running for elected office, serving on public boards and commissions, and/or working on a political campaign.

Registration is \$75 per person if postmarked by March 21, 2009 and \$100 per person after March 21. For more information, visit www.las.iastate.edu/cattcenter/readytorun.shtml.

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Hampton Inn & Suites wants local input on room names



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The new Hampton Inn & Suites, which is slated to open in summer 2009 is asking for local input in naming two of their meeting rooms.

The hotel chain has more than 1,600 locations throughout the United States. Local Hampton Inn & Suites owners are seeking suggestions from local residents on what the meeting rooms should be named. The owners would like names with local appeal. Winning names will be announced later this spring.

For your chance to win one of two free hotel stays at the new Hampton Inn & Suites in Marshalltown, please enter your suggestion on the form below. If more than one person has the same winning entry, the winner will be determined by a random drawing. Contest ends March 31, 2009.

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail: _____

Suggested name: _____

Explanation of local appeal:

Mail or drop off to Marshalltown Chamber of Commerce
709 S Center St., Marshalltown, IA 50158.

Washington DC Summit

The Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce and Marshall Economic Development Impact Committee's 18th Annual lobbying trip to Washington, D.C., is slated for April 27 - 28. A strong contingent of citizens representing both the private and public sector will travel to our nation's capitol to promote a unified agenda to secure funds for community projects and proactively communicate the Chamber and MEDIC's position on issues of importance.

Throughout the two-day Washington Summit, participants will have the opportunity to advocate for local projects and key economic growth issues facing Marshalltown and the Central Iowa area.

If you are interested in attending the Summit, contact the Chamber office.



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YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Tips from Jaycees & MYP Financial Lunch & Learn Series

The overall theme of the recent Financial Lunch & Learn series was protecting the financial future of our families and our community from this current, volatile economic period. In the following months, tips from the series will be shared in the Chamber Digest.

Build a solid foundation: Think of financial security as a pyramid. The foundation of your pyramid is instrumental to a solid structure. This foundation is protection. Next comes the accumulation period. Financial security is a combination of insurance, savings and investments followed by preservation and distribution. Start small and cover all your bases. As you progress in your career and your income grows, your financial security will grow as well.

The first step in establishing your financial security is to confront the biggest threats to it. That requires asking yourself some tough questions: What would happen if you or your spouse became sick or injured – or died? What if you lost your job? What if your home was damaged in a storm or by fire? What if you seriously injured someone in an auto accident?

All of these situations are potentially devastating to your family's financial security. You can minimize your risk by properly insuring against these concerns.

Key Considerations

- Protection First
 - What is the biggest threat to your financial security?
- Start Saving - Grow
 - Start early
 - Create an emergency fund of three months minimum
 - Build equity – purchase a home
- Invest for the Future/ Accumulate
 - Immediately enroll in 401(k) – get company match
 - Roth or Traditional IRA
- Preserve and Distribute
 - What to do now with what you have
 - Avoid outliving your retirement savings

Watch for more financial tips in the months ahead, including: Involving your Children in the Financial Process, Saving for Retirement, and What to do once you've Retired.

The next Financial Lunch & Learn series, co-sponsored by MYP and the Marshalltown Jaycees will take place in April with the topic: "Finances: A Women's Perspective."



Sip. Savor. Support. Success!

The Marshalltown Young Professionals would like to thank all those that attended the 3rd annual *Sip. Savor. Support.* Wine Tasting and Silent Auction event on Wednesday, February 11.

The event was very successful, thanks also to the numerous businesses and individuals who donated items to be included in the silent auction. More than 150 people enjoyed samples of John Ernest Vineyard and Winery wines and appetizers at Elmwood Country Club.

A portion of the proceeds from the evening will benefit the Community Y's Partner with Youth campaign.



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BUSINESS NEWS

Legislative Friday Forum

As the 2009 legislative session gets into full swing, the Chamber Government Affairs Committee is again sponsoring a series of Friday Legislative forums. It is a great opportunity for you to get a first-hand update on the happenings of the legislature from our area elected officials. The forum begins at noon in the Fisher Community Center.



State Representatives Lance Horbach, Mark Smith, Annette Sweeney and State Senator Steve Sodders meet with a group during the Chamber's first Friday Forum of the 2009 Legislative session on January 30.

Des Moines Summit

The date for the Chamber's 12th Annual Des Moines Summit and Legislative Day has been moved to Thursday, April 2 (formerly scheduled for April 1). This year's summit will begin at 5:30 a.m. on April 2 with a pre-summit meeting at the Fisher Community Center. To review the Chamber's 2009 Legislative priorities, visit www.marshalltown.org/chamber/government.php and click on the Chamber 2009 Legislative Priorities link.

Watch for more information coming soon.



2009 Legislative Friday Forums

Friday, March 6

Noon at the Fisher Community Center

Friday, March 20

Noon at the Fisher Community Center

For a list of the Chamber's 2009 Legislative Priorities, please visit www.marshalltown.org/chamber/government.php.



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