

Chamber Digest

September 2007

Volume 25 Issue 4



Upcoming Events

September 13

Business After Hours/United Way Kick-off at McFarland Clinic, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

October 17

Membership Blitz Kick-off, 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

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The changing landscape of Marshalltown

These are just a few examples of the progress in the Marshalltown area. Can you identify each project?



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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

9th Street Gallery & Frame

The late T.V. news journalist Charles Kuralt once said, "Surpassing craftsmanship - doing it right, no matter how long it takes - has always been high on my list of human virtues. That's what Dennis and Phyllis Smeins, owners of 9th Street Gallery & Frame, strive for every day.

The business opened 37 years ago and operated evenings and Saturdays. In 1984, the previous owner approached the Smeins about purchasing the business. Within three years, their sales had tripled and Dennis decided it was time to leave his job of twenty-one years and make their frame business full-time jobs. To



celebrate this change, the Smeins changed the business name to 9th Street Gallery & Frame. The name tells where they are, what they sell and what they do. The name also cemented a long term commitment to their location.

Custom picture framing has always been the backbone of their business, but they also sell art, including Terry Redlin, Jesse Barnes and P. Buckley Moss.

But, the Smeins don't just frame art. They frame everything from snake skins to antique rifles, baby shoes, dipolmas, ballet slippers, sports memorabilia, military uniforms, medals, and stitchery, just to name a few. Over 40,000 custom frames have passed through their door.

9th Street Gallery & Frame is truly a partnership between the Smeins. They both handle sales and customer service, but Dennis makes all the custom frames and works on specialty items. Phyllis performs all the cleaning and fitting. In a normal week, the Smeins custom frame 20 to 40 items, all utilizing "total conservation framing".

"It amazes me how many international travelers there are in the area," said Dennis. "We've framed many pieces of art brought back from every continent."

Over half 9th Street Gallery & Frame's custom framing customers come from out of town, including recent projects performed for individuals from Fredericksburg, Ames, Chelsea, Odebolt and Ida Grove.

Why do so many folkd drive so far to have their custom framing done at 9th Street Galley & Frame? Maybe's it's the price. They tend to be very competitive. But, it's probably the little stucco building on 9th Street, where customers can talk directly to the people who perform the work, the time they take on each project. Maybe it's the fact that Dennis and Phyllis Smeins take the time to get to know their customers - listening to each and every story of the precious items brought in for custom framing.

For more information, contact 9th Street Gallery at 641-752-2647 or visit their location at 506 South 9th Street in Marshalltown.



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.

Iowa Hospice

Angie Lynch-Wilson
2 West Main Street
Marshalltown, IA 50158
(641)753-6203

Iowa Hospice is a family-owned and locally operated hospice organization, founded by Tom and John Moreland, serving 40 counties across the state. Iowa Hospice is Medicare and Medicaid certified. The mission of Iowa Hospice is to bring love, joy, and peace into the homes of those suffering from a terminal illness

Los Tucanes

Jose and Dora Victor
15 South 1st Street
Marshalltown, IA 50158
(641)753-0508

Los Tucanes features men's, women's, and children's clothing, Western Wear, shoes, formalwear, and unique gift items.

Listen Weekly to Chamber Chat Sunday Mornings

6:30 am on 99.5 KDAO FM

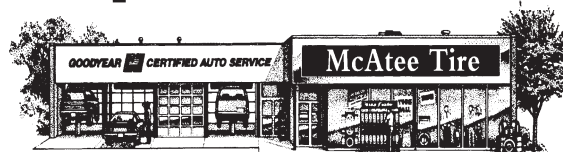
7:30 am on 1190 KDAO AM

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



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Mark Smith
Karen Squires
Tim Wynes

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 business, residents and visitors.

Thank You Reinvesting Members

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

AAA Travel (30 years)

Ace Precision (5 years)

Deane Adams (29 years)

Alliant Energy (38 years)

American Family Insurance - Bill Thiede (5 years)

American Family Insurance - Joan Postal (4 years)

BDH Technology (4 years)

Blood Center of Iowa (7 years)

Brite-way Electric (3 years)

Cecil's (20 years)

Con-Struct (34 years)

Darrell Eaton (35 years)

Dewey Ford (1 year)

Ed Mead Real Estate (28 years)

Emergency First Response (1 year)

Hahn Roofing (28 years)

Hogeland Auto Plaza (3 years)

Hy-Vee Drugstore (37 years)

IVCCD (16 years)

IVCE (15 years)

Iowa Veterans Home (19 years)

JCPenney (15 years)

Kenn's Transmission (23 years)

KRTI Radio (12 years)

Lamar Advertising (11 years)

Lennox Manufacturing (38 years)

MCC (15 years)

M'town Education Assn. (12 years)

M'town General Dentistry (27 years)

Martin-Marietta (30 years)

McGregor's Furniture (44 years)

Packaging Corp. of America (47 years)

Phoenix E-waste (2 years)

Dr. Bradley Price (9 years)

Swift & Company (48 years)

Team Drury Auto (5 years)

United Bank & Trust (5 years)

Wertzberger Architects (12 years)

Business After Hours

September 13

United Way Kick-off at
McFarland Clinic

111 East Church Street
Marshalltown, IA 50158

5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Italian sodas and food will be served.

October 18

Carmichael Back & Neck
17 East Southridge Road

Marshalltown, IA 50158

4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

November 14

Business to Business Showcase

Contact the Chamber office to
showcase your business during this
exciting event!

December

US Bank

123 West Main Street
Marshalltown, IA 50158

Want to book a Chamber Business
After Hours for 2008? Contact the
Chamber office.

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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.

Valerie Ruff joins MMSC staff



The Marshalltown Medical & Surgical Center Foundation welcomes Valerie Ruff to its staff as the new foundation development specialist. In this position, Val is responsible for the day to day operations of the Foundation and working with donors to develop gift support for the programs funded by the Foundation. She will also work closely with the Foundation Board of Directors to develop strategies for achieving community impact through donor engagement and support.

Valerie comes to the MMSC Foundation with years' of experience in gift planning and marketing at the Iowa State University Foundation, where she was Coordinator of Gift Planning Marketing. Ruff was also the Director of the Marshalltown Convention & Visitors Bureau from 1999-2001. Val is a lifelong resident of Marshalltown.

"We are so fortunate to have found someone with Val's skills and community commitment," said Liz Zuercher, MMSC Director of Public Relations/Foundation. "These are challenging and exciting times and I'm confident that Val's background and experience will be a great benefit to the MMSC Foundation."





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www.marshalltown.org Statistics

| | July 2007 | YTD Total | Avg/Month |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Unique Visitors | 4,612 | 26,645 | 3,806 |
| Number of Visits | 6,348 | 37,648 | 5,378 |
| Page Views | 24,180 | 165,942 | 23,706 |
| Hits | 138,193 | 928,520 | 132,646 |

Chamber members celebrate anniversaries

Julie Schossow celebrates 10 years as the owner of The Optical Center, located at 116 West Main Street, Marshalltown. Schossow has thirty years experience as an optician.

Congratulations to Citizens Savings Bank for 100 years of business. Citizens Savings Bank is locally owned and operated and has three locations: Gilman, LeGrand and 110 West Southridge Road in Marshalltown.

Mike Miltenberger with Mike's Bikes and Fitness, 117 West Main Street in Marshalltown, celebrated twenty-five years of business in August. The shop offers bike sales, accessories and repairs.

Mid-Iowa Workshop (MIW, Inc.) recently celebrated 40 years of serving the Marshalltown area. MIW, Inc. is a non-profit corporation that provides vocational and community employment services for adults with disabilities. MIW, Inc. is located at 909 South 14th Avenue in Marshalltown.

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CHAMBER NEWS

IVCCD Instructional Equipment Levy Renewal Needed

On the September 11 school election ballot, Iowa Valley Community College District asks voters to renew the Six Cent Instructional Equipment Levy. This is not a new tax; it will not increase the amount property owners are currently levied. This Six Cent Instructional Equipment Levy will continue to provide much-needed operational money that is used to purchase, as the name defines, equipment used for instruction at Marshalltown Community College, Ellsworth Community College, Iowa Valley Continuing Education, and Iowa Valley Grinnell.

Voters originally approved this levy for a 10-year period that expires in 2008. The levy is paid by property owners throughout the 14 school districts of IVCCD at a rate of six cents per \$1,000 taxable assessed evaluation. With rollbacks, the actual amount paid per homeowner is less than \$3 per \$100,000 of valuation. This levy will generate approximately \$203,000 in 2007-2008 that will be used to purchase new computers, software, classroom furnishings, audio-visual equipment, and career training equipment for classrooms throughout IVCCD; equipment and technology that allows the colleges to stay on top of trends in the workplace. This prepares students to enter the job market with skills that make them immediately valuable to employers.

In the past few years Marshalltown Community College students have benefited in many ways thanks to the Instructional Equipment Levy. Dr. Barbara Burrows, Provost of MCC, says the levy money is often used to stretch grants or gifts to the college. For example, six-cent levy funds have been matched with a Martha-Ellen Tye gift to the fine arts department and used to improve the Helio Portes lecture hall with acoustical curtains, speakers, new carpet, and digital pianos.

Recently, gifts from 3M and the R.J. Mason/Pfizer Endowment were supplemented with levy funds to allow math teacher, Mark Monroe, to purchase computer equipment to add video to his audio presentations that students can view on their iPods. Nursing students have enjoyed classroom renovations and laboratory upgrades.

Throughout the colleges new computers, LCD projectors, monitors, VCRs and related equipment replace the old to enhance technology in labs and classrooms. A new library automation system made it easier for all students to access outside media and locate research materials.

Additional portable electronic equipment made it possible for instructors to have the tools they need available in nearly any classroom.

Considering that the cost of computers averages \$1,500 each, and there are nearly 1,000 active computers throughout the District, the cost of keeping up with technology needs is daunting. Burrows said, "The six-cent levy money is critical to us, as state aid was cut dramatically in 2001 and has yet to recover. We rely on this community support to supplement our conservative operating budgets."

The Sept. 11 school election will include a question that asks voters to say yes or no to adopting the public measure to authorize Merged Area Education VI Community College District (Iowa Valley Community College District) to levy for a period of 10 years, a tax at the rate of six cents per one thousand dollars assessed valuation for the purchase of instructional equipment for the District, beginning July 1, 2008. Again, this is not a new tax; it is renewal of the current Six Cent Instructional Equipment Levy that is due to expire on June 30, 2008. The community colleges rely on the public's continued support.



Iowa Valley Community College District will seek renewal of the six-cent Instructional Equipment Levy on the September 11 school election ballot. IVCCD uses the levy to purchase new computer and accessories, software, classroom furniture, audio/visual equipment and career training equipment.

Do you spend more time planning your vacation than your financial future?

When you plan your vacation, you probably spend time visiting a travel agent, booking your flight and hotel, even consulting sightseeing guides. But, how much time do you spend planning something much more important--your financial future?

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Branch Office Manager

25 S. Center St.

Marshalltown, IA 50158

641-752-2041

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CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

MCVB director announced



Mike Stegmann, chairman of the Marshalltown Convention and Visitors Bureau, announced that Shannon Espenscheid has accepted the position as Director of the Marshalltown Convention and Visitors Bureau. She will begin her duties on September 1, 2007.

"Shannon was the unanimous choice of the search committee. We are excited that we can bring her background and experience to the MCVB to help guide the development of a strong program for convention and visitor attraction to Marshalltown," Stegmann said.

Espenscheid is a graduate of California State University in Fresno California with a Bachelors Degree in Agricultural Business. She comes to the MCVB with excellent experience as an event planner, and also extensive public relations and advertising experience including brochure and advertisement design. Prior to moving to Iowa in 1996, Espenscheid served as the Commercial Exhibits Manager for the California Exposition and State Fair/Sacramento County Fair in Sacramento CA. In Iowa she worked for the Agribusiness Association of Iowa as the events coordinator for the association. Since 1999 she has operated Espenscheid Marketing with an emphasis on sales, marketing and event planning for various state associations.

Espenscheid is married to Jon and they have two children – Evan who is 7 years old and Ethan who is 4 years old.

Camping Opportunities

The Marshalltown Convention & Visitors Bureau is gathering information about camping in Marshalltown and the Marshalltown Area. This information will be use to help visitors in the community and may also be used in the 2008 Marshalltown Visitors Guide. MCVB volunteers will be calling for more information about these campsites including number of primitive spots, number of electrical hookups, restrooms/showers available, drinking water available, and other amenities.

Information will be gathered about RV camping locations including Riverview Park, Shady Oaks RV Camping, Central Iowa Fairgrounds, and the Starlite Mobile Home Park. Campgrounds include Riverview Park, Forest Reserve, Grammer Grove Wildlife Area, Three Bridges Park, Timmons Grove South, and French Grove Wildlife Area. We are seeking additional information on the following locations: Pilgrim Heights, Twin Anchors, Union Grove State Park, Otter Creek Lake & Park, T.F. Clark Park and Addition and Rock Creek State Park.

If you know of a favorite spot not including above, please contact the Marshalltown Convention & Visitors Bureau office at 641-753-6645.

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CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

Oktemberfest draws thousands to Marshalltown



Oktemberfest organizers are gearing up to host another exciting installment of one of Iowa's best family fall festivals September 20 - 23.

This year's schedule of events includes a parade, food vendors,

kids games and rides, musical entertainment, a 5K/10K walk/run, bike ride and much more. This year's parade theme is "In the Heart of Marshalltown."

Oktemberfest will draw visitors from all over the country to participate in four days of events. For a complete list of Oktemberfest events, visit www.oktemberfest.com.

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

September 2007

| Event | Date | Location |
|------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| Bingo | Tuesdays | Senior Citizens Center |
| StoryTime | Tues. & Fri. | Public Library |
| Rita Noe, Art Reception | Sept. 2 | Fisher Community Center |
| A Lifetime of Gardening | Sept. 4 | Fisher Community Center |
| Organic/Sustainable Ag Tour | Sept. 4 | Fisher Community Center |
| Nature Story Hour | Sept. 5 | GrimesFarm & Cons. Center |
| Taste of Home Cooking School | Sept. 5 | MHS/Community Auditorium |
| Don Laughlin Music Festival | Sept. 5 | Iowa Veterans Home |
| Card Party | Sept. 10 | Art & Cultural Center |
| Rogers Cornerstone Laying | Sept. 13 | Rogers School |
| Nature Story Hour | Sept. 19 | GrimesFarm & Cons. Center |
| Oktemberfest | Sept. 20-23 | Main Street |
| Historic Home Tour | Sept. 22 | Variety of Homes |
| Taylor #4 School Dedication | Sept. 23 | Taylor #4 School |
| Card Party | Sept. 24 | Art & Cultural Center |

September 2007

| Date | Group | Location |
|---------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Sept. 12-14 | Landlords of Iowa | Best Western Regency Inn |
| Sept. 13 - 14 | IA State Bar Association | Elmwood Country Club |
| Sept. 13-16 | Central IA Camera Club, N4C | Best Western Regency Inn |
| Sept. 15-16 | EMS in the Field | IA Valley Continuing Education |
| Sept. 21-23 | Iowa Jewelers Association | Best Western Regency Inn |
| Sept. 21-23 | IA Geocachers Organization | Riverview Park |
| Sept. 28 | Cowboy Mounted Shooting | Central Iowa Fairgrounds |

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RIBBON CUTTINGS



Lanesa Weber, owner of Create-a-Keepsake, celebrated the opening of her new store at 9 West Main Street, with a ribbon cutting on Tuesday, July 24. The store offers paint-your-own crafts and artwork.



The Chamber Ambassadors congratulated Scott Miller, owner of Sonic Wireless on the opening of his new store at 10 West Main Street, on Tuesday, July 24 with a ribbon cutting. Sonic Wireless is a Sprint dealer.



The Chamber Ambassadors visited employees at Sonic Drive-In Restaurant, 10 Lafrentz Lane, for a ribbon cutting on Tuesday, August 14. Sonic Drive-In Restaurant is open daily 6:00 a.m. to Midnight.



The Chamber Ambassadors congratulated Scoter Tire owner, Eric Benscoter, on the opening of the new tire shop at 805 Iowa Avenue West.

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 and 4:45 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 753-6645 or info@marshalltown.org.



Visit
www.marshalltown.com
to view past issues of
the Chamber
newsletter, ribbon
cutting and courtesy
call photos.

AMBASSADORS GOLF OUTING

124 golfers participate in the Chamber Ambassadors golf outing

Sixty-two 2-person teams competed in the 2007 Chamber Ambassadors golf outing on Thursday, August 16. Golfers were treated to beautiful weather, 18 holes of golf, prizes, contests and a banquet meal.

A special thank you to the event's major sponsors: Big 8 Tyre, Denny's Hometown TV & Appliance, Grinnell Beverage Company and Sign Creations.



Championship Flight winners Larry Harder and Paul Gregoire at the Ambassador Golf Outing

Flight Winners:

Championship Flight - 1st Place: Larry Harder and Paul Gregoire (64)

Championship Flight - 2nd Place: Austin Richardson and Todd Bolar (64)

1st Flight - 1st Place: Chris Richards and Gary Bolar (71)

1st Flight - 2nd Place: Brad Hauschildt and Kris Naughton (71)

2nd Flight - 1st Place: Terry and Lisa Dotson (75)

2nd Flight - 2nd Place: John Ziegenbusch and Mike Stimac (75)

3rd Flight - 1st Place: Dan Kester and John Boehm (78)

3rd Flight - 2nd Place: Steve Hay and John Mahlstede (78)

4th Flight - 1st Place: Glen Barrit and Ron Hahn (81)

4th Flight - 2nd Place: Jason Hayes and Maurie Cashman (81)

Congratulations to all of the flight winners!



A number of local businesses donated prizes for the outing. For a complete list of prize sponsors, turn to page 16.



Golfers enjoy the banquet meal during the annual Ambassadors Golf Outing. For more pictures, turn to page 16.

Hole Sponsors

| | |
|---|--|
| AAA Travel | KFJB-AM / KIX 101.1 FM |
| Adland Engraving | Koehler Insurance |
| AIG Financial Advisors | LWBJ, LLC |
| American Family Insurance - Joan Postal | M. Gervich & Sons |
| Animal Clinic - The Vet | Marshall Town Center |
| Animal Medical Clinic | Marshalltown Community College |
| Bank of the West | Marshalltown Medical & Surgical Center |
| Best Western Regency Inn | Marshalltown Orthopaedics |
| Briteway Electric | Marshalltown Young Professionals |
| Chase Insurance Services | McAtee Tire |
| Clapsaddle-Garber Associates | Mediacom/OnMedia |
| Coldwell Banker Premier Real Estate | Northwestern Mutual Financial |
| Consumers Energy | Packaging Corporation of America |
| Countrywide Home Loan | Patwrite |
| Edward Jones | |
| Emerson Process Management | Penn Mutual Life Insurance |
| Eyecare Associates | Pinnacle Bank |
| F & M Bank | Plaza 9 Theatres |
| Fareway | RACOM |
| Farmers Savings Bank | ServiceMaster |
| Five Star Real Estate Group - Ward & Janet Miller | Sign Creations |
| Grandview Heights | Sports Plus Sports Medicine & Physical Therapy |
| Hay Construction | Swift & Company |
| Home Federal Savings Bank | Times-Republican |
| Independent Insurance | United Bank & Trust |
| Iowa State Senator Larry McKibben | USA Staffing |
| Iowa Telecom | Vaughn's Pub |
| Iowa Whole Supply | Wells Fargo Home Mortgage |
| Jiffy Convenience Stores | Wolfe Clinic |
| Jerry Johnson Pro Shop | Zeno's |



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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MEDIC web site is source for local information

The Marshall Economic Development Impact Committee (MEDIC) web site, www.marshalltownworks.com, is a great resource for current demographic information about Marshalltown, Marshall County and the state of Iowa. It also includes many links to other professional resources and free documents to download.

The backbone of the MEDIC web site is the information listed on Location One Information System (LOIS), a state-of-the-art online application that is currently utilized by more than 6,500 communities in 12 states. This online tool showcases economic development data and available property including demographics, transportation, environment, labor force, average wage, taxation, building size and type and much more.

MEDIC updates and maintains the Marshall County and Marshalltown information as well as the information for all the incorporated communities within Marshall County. Additional information can be found on the Iowa Department of Economic Development web site: <http://www.iowalifechanging.com/business/siteconsultants.html>.

LOIS offers a unique platform that allows MEDIC to share that information in "real time" with their economic development allies such as Alliant Energy and the Iowa Department of Economic Development, as well as the opportunity to publish building, site, interactive maps (GIS) and community information on their own web site. As an added benefit, this information is displayed on the Internet at LocationOne.com, which is targeted to site selection consultants nationwide.

The variety of other resources featured on the MEDIC web site include the downloadable "Marshalltown Profile," a two-page document with history, demographics, taxes, quality of life, and other hard information about Marshalltown; the "Marshall County 2007 Retail Trade Analysis" and other publications from the Iowa State University Office of Social and Economic Trend Analysis office; the "2006 Marshall County Laborshed Study;" and links to the U.S. Small Business Administration and Iowa Secretary of State web sites.

Additionally, every page of the MEDIC website has links to other valuable resources, such as the Chamber, MCVB, and city websites.

MEDIC aims to serve a broad audience with access to the wide-range of professional resources, reports, information and the database available through LOIS. And, if you don't find what you need, you can email MEDIC directly using the form on the "Contact Us."

Economic Statistics

| Employment | April 2007 | YTD |
|--|------------|-------------|
| Marshall Co. Residents in labor Force | 20,680 | 20,690 |
| Percent Unemployed | 3.5% | 4% |
| Total Employment (residents) | 19,970 | 19,870 |
| Marshalltown Construction | April 2007 | YTD |
| Building Permits | 15 | 33 |
| Residential Dwelling Units | 4 | 9 |
| New Residential Construction Value | \$813,000 | \$1,462,000 |
| Residential Addition/Remodeling Valuation | \$26,000 | \$79,000 |
| New Commercial/Industrial Permits | 1 | 8 |
| New Commercial/Industrial Valuation | \$13,000 | \$207,000 |
| Remodeling Commercial/Industrial Valuation | \$985,000 | \$5,332,000 |
| Housing | April 2007 | YTD |
| Home Sales, Single Family Dwelling | 35 | 114 |
| Average Sale Price | \$92,711 | \$101,604 |
| Median Sale Price | \$84,000 | \$89,000 |

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IOWA VALLEY LEADERSHIP

Iowa Valley Leadership gears up for another year

Iowa Valley Leadership is an annual community leadership class that is jointly sponsored by the Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce and Iowa Valley Continuing Education (IVCE). This year's class begins with orientation on Thursday, September 6 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at DeJardin Hall on the IVCE campus. The orientation provides the foundation for making the most of the leadership adventure ahead. Class participants will meet each other and have a chance to get acquainted.

The team building retreat will begin Thursday, September 13 on the Iowa Valley Adventures Challenge Course. Thursday evening, the class will stay at Pilgrim Heights near Montour and finish up the retreat on Friday with small group discussions on leadership values. The class will also continue team building by learning about Imagine 2011 and discussing potential class projects.

Throughout the course of the class, which runs from September through May, class members will meet once a month with a different focus for the class session. October will feature information about the quality of life in Marshalltown. November's session is titled "Go Marshalltown Day!", where class members will discuss economic development, wellness and the many other things we have to be proud of in the Marshalltown area.

December's session will take class members back to the classroom to explore education. Area educators will open doors to new thinking about leading and learning. "Beyond Demographics" is the title for January's class, where class members will discuss the reality of Marshalltown's socio-economic issues. There is no doubt that Marshalltown is changing and growing and part of that growth is due to diversity and immigration. February's session will focus on these issues, as well as awareness, education and commitment to learning to help build a cohesive future for our community.

Each year, the March class session joins members of the Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce for the Marshalltown Summit at the State Capital. Class members have an opportunity to meet legislators, network and learn more about the governmental issues facing our area. Following the Des Moines Summit trip, class members focus on justice during the April session, which meets at the Marshall County Jail.

The class wraps up in May with a day at Grimes Farm and Conservation Center. Class members meet leaders working to leave a better environment as a legacy to future generations. Class members also participate in a graduation ceremony to celebrate the completion of the Iowa Valley Leadership class in May.

Iowa Valley Leadership's mission is to inspire community leadership through knowledge of critical issues and interaction with people of great vision. For more information about Iowa Valley Leadership, please contact Lorraine White (lorraine.white@iavalley.edu) or Betsy Macke (besty.macke@iavalley.edu).



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CHAMBER NEWS

Educators head back to school

The Chamber hosted the 15th Annual Educator Appreciation Breakfast on Wednesday, August 22 at the Marshalltown High School cafeteria. The annual breakfast is a kick-off to the school year for the Marshalltown Community School District, Marshalltown Area Catholic Schools, Marshalltown Christian School and Central Iowa Christian Academy. Independent Insurance was the key sponsor for the event. The event was made possible through sponsorships from the following businesses:

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Rural/Urban dinner held

The Rotary Club, Marshall County Farm Bureau and the Chamber hosted the annual Rural/Urban dinner on Tuesday, August 21. Thank you to Consumers Energy for graciously hosting the event, the Marshall County Cattlemen for providing steaks and to Dick DeWees from Memories for supplying additional catering items.



YP Iowa Conference

The Marshalltown Young Professionals are looking for people interested in attending the annual YP Iowa Conference October 26 in Sioux City. If you are interested, please contact the Chamber office at 641-753-6645.

MYP welcomes new members

The Marshalltown Young Professionals are excited to announce the newest members of the organization: Lacey Benz, Nick Loney and Sarah McMillian.

Lacey Benz was recently named the Community Relations Director for Bickford Cottage. She is a Marshalltown native and graduate of Marshalltown High School.

Nick Loney, VP of Finance & CFO for RACOM, is a new face in the MYP organization, but has been actively involved in several community organizations for a number of years, including Chamber Ambassadors and Oktoberfest. Loney also currently serves on the Chamber Board as Vice-Chair of Business Growth and Development.

Sarah McMillian recently joined the Community Y staff as the Financial Development Director, focusing primarily on the annual Partner with Youth campaign and working with the Y's Heritage Club.

MYP recruitment

YP Connect, the membership/marketing leg of the MYP organization is looking for young employees that may be interested in joining MYP. Two recruitment events are scheduled for early September.

"We are compiling a list of young professionals in the community that we feel could benefit from being involved in an organization, such as MYP", said Rusty Feldman, MYP president. "We want to help retain young people in the community by providing social gatherings, professional development opportunities and networking events."

If you know of a young professional that would benefit from membership in the Marshalltown Young Professionals, please contact the Chamber office at 641-753-6645 or email lolberding@marshalltown.org.

www.everydaychampions.org

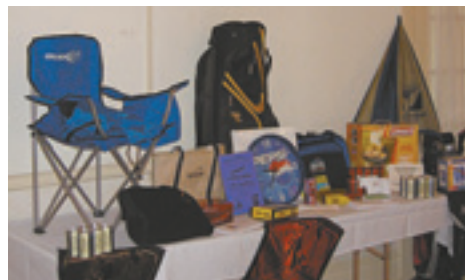
AMBASSADOR GOLF OUTING

Thank you to all the businesses who helped support the Ambassador Golf Outing!

(Right): Chris Goerdt of F & M Bank tied with Russ Hotchkiss of Proshield Fire Protection as the "Bomb's Away" contest winner. Contestants had to throw toilet paper rolls into a toilet off of the veranda. Chris and Russ each had 7 successful throws. Not pictured is Denny Hass, who won the Plunger Putt contest. Contestants received points for each successful putt through a toilet seat with a plunger. Thank you to Lew Miller of Iowa Wholesale Supply for sponsoring these contests.



(Above): Golfers relax at Elmwood Country Club after 18 holes of golf.



Deb Ewoldt of Koehler Insurance was the lucky winner of the grand prize drawing for a flat panel HDTV during the Ambassador Golf Outing.

The following businesses supplied prizes that were given away during the Ambassador Golf Outing on August 16 at Elmwood Country Club:

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