

Chamber Digest

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MARSHALLTOWN, IA
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May 2008

Volume 25 Issue 12

Marshalltown Day at the State Capitol



Upcoming Events

- May 2: 7:30 - 9:00 a.m.**
Target 5 - Buy In! Marketplace
- May 15: 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.**
Business to Business Showcase

In This Issue

- Member Spotlight - Phoenix E-Waste Solutions**
Page 2
- New Members**
Page 2
- Leadership / Reinvesting Members**
Page 3
- Faces & Places**
Page 4
- Convention & Visitors Bureau Tourism News**
Pages 6 & 7
- Ribbon Cuttings**
Page 8
- MEDIC Economic Development News**
Page 10
- Business Directory**
Pages 12 - 14
- Marshalltown Young Professionals**
Page 15
- Business News**
Page 16



Over sixty Marshalltown participants in the 11th Annual Des Moines Summit and Legislative Day hear about workforce initiatives from Senators Pat Ward and Bill Dotzler and Iowa Workforce Development Director Liz Buck.

Marshalltown heads to the nation's Capitol

Nearly 40 people will travel to Washington D.C. May 20 and 21, to carry a comprehensive community agenda to our elected officials. The 2008 summit is chaired by Bill Grabe, CGA and Ric Anderson, Hy-Vee Food Store. Grabe is the Chair-elect of MEDIC and Anderson is the Chair-elect of the Chamber. This is the 17th annual trip.

The agenda includes issues in healthcare, housing, transportation, immigration, workforce, business climate and education. Meetings are scheduled with Senator Grassley, Senator Harkin and Congressman Latham.



Pictured above is the 2007 Marshalltown delegation on the annual Washington DC Summit trip. This year's delegation will head to the nation's Capitol May 20 and 21.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Phoenix E-Waste Solutions

If you've ever wondered what to do with that old television set that no longer works or the computer components that are outdated, consider taking them to Phoenix E-Waste Solutions, 12 South 8th Avenue in Marshalltown.

Father and son co-owners, Mike and Brett Ladehoff accept electronic items for recycling.

Electronic items they accept include computer towers, keyboards, mice and monitors; televisions, radios and small household electronics; cell phones; VCR, CD and DVD players; MP3 players; cable boxes and battery back-ups.



"We recycle approximately a semi-load full of items every week," said Brett Ladehoff. "Last year we processed 300,000 pounds of materials and we've already done that much in the first quarter of this year alone."

As part of an Earth Day promotion and celebration, Phoenix E-Waste and the Keep Marshalltown Beautiful committee sponsored E-recycling week, offering free and reduced-cost recycling to Marshall County residents. In the first two days of the E-recycling week, Phoenix E-Waste collected and processed more than 4,000 pounds of materials. The E-recycling week event runs through April 26.

The E-recycling week was a way for the Ladehoffs and their staff to give back to the community. "Marshall County has been good to us," said Mike.

The business picks up electronic items for recycling from as far north as Mason City and as far south as the Missouri border. The majority of the items they collect for processing are from businesses, organizations and schools, however the business is open for resident drop-off Monday through Friday and Saturdays by appointment.

"We recycle everything," said Mike Ladehoff. "From the plastic to all of the wiring." They do not resell anything that comes in.

Phoenix E-Waste plans to move to the Marshalltown Gateway Centre at the intersection of Highways 30 and 330 by the end of 2008. For more information contact Phoenix E-Waste Solutions at 641-753-7200.



Cleaniac participated in E-recycling week by dropping off a computer monitor at Phoenix E-Waste Solutions.

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.

American Workers Group, Inc.

Dean Vaughn, President
104 South 1st Street
Marshalltown, IA 50158
641-752-2894

Contact Dean Vaughn or Angie Shibe for financial services and employee benefits for your unique business needs.

Heartland Metals

Greg Mahurin, Owner
603 South 12th Avenue
Marshalltown, IA 50158
641-752-1084

Heartland Metals specializes in fabrication of metal buildings and metal building components, excluding gutters.

Long John Silvers

Stephen Moore, General Manager
2306 South Center Street
Marshalltown, IA 50158
641-752-1011

Long John Silvers is the world's most popular quick-service seafood chain, specializing in batter-dipped fish, chicken and shrimp.

www.marshalltown.org Statistics

	Mar. 08	YTD Total	Avg/Month
Unique Visitors	3,971	11,308	3,769
Number of Visits	6,538	18,119	6,040
Page Views	21,134	90,168	30,056
Hits	130,297	396,918	132,306

For March 2008 compared to March 2007, the number of unique visitors was up 14% and visits were up 30%.

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.

LEADERSHIP

Chamber
Chair: Bill Thiede



Board of Directors

Ric Anderson
Chair Elect
Kathy Baker
Treasurer
Jacque Goodman
Vice Chair Membership
John Hughes
Vice Chair Public Affairs
Nick Loney
Vice Chair Business Growth
Brian Heitoff
MEDIC Chair
Jeff Vance
Past Chair

Doug Beals
Ellen Bergman
Scott Carnahan
Paul Gregoire
Jim Gruening
Doug Joslin
Fauna Nord
Liz Zuercher

Ex-Officio
Gene Beach
City of Marshalltown
Denny Grabenbauer
MCVB

MCVB
Chair: Mike Stegmann



Board of Directors

Denny Grabenbauer
Vice Chair
Carol Hibbs
Past Chair
Deanna Davis
Secretary
Kay Clark
Jennifer Howard
Dan Moellers
Chad Weir
Bob Wenner
Liz Wilke

Staff

Ken Anderson
President
Lynn Olberding
Director of Membership & Marketing
Sauna Banks
Administrative Assistant
Britt Nichols
Administrative Assistant
Joel Akason
MEDIC President
Amy Mills
MEDIC Executive Assistant
Shannon Espenscheid
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.

MEDIC
Chair: Brian Heitoff



Board of Directors

Bill Grabe
Chair Elect
Jim Lowrance
Treasurer
Rob Cooper
Secretary
Leon Lamer
Past Chair

Parke Adamson
Larry Allen
Gene Beach
Bob Berger
William Boehm
Douglas Gervich
Sharon Greer
Dan Hassman
John Hermanson
Carol Hibbs
Dean Kenagy
Gordie Johnson
Mike Miller
Loras Neuroth
Mike Schlesinger
Kevin Swartz
Bill Thiede
Kenn Vinson
Glenn Ytzen

Ex-Officio
Harrison Cass
Dick Hierstein
Larry McKibben
Mark Smith
Karen Squires
Tim Wynes

Thank You Reinvesting Members



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

Acme Printing	5
Accu-Tax	8
Cabinet Shoppe	4
Center Associates	16
Central Iowa Farm Store	10
Countrywide Home Loans	6
Eden Natural Berkshire Pork	6
Jon Espenscheid	3
First Presbyterian Church	4
Grandview Heights	12
H & R Block	1
Iowa Bath Systems	5
KCRM	4
Paul Koehler	1
Marshalltown Christian School	2
Minute Man	12
New Hope Christian Church	4
The Optical Center	10
Plaza 9 Theatres	4
Riddle's Jewelry	10
Staples	10
Youth & Shelter Services	1

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



Business After Hours

May 15, 2008

5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Business to Business Showcase
Key sponsor: Marshalltown
Medical & Surgical Center
Fisher Community Center
Auditorium

June 5, 2008

4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Marshalltown Broadcasting, Inc.
123 West Main Street
Marshalltown, IA 50158

July 9, 2008

5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Central Iowa Fair
1308 East Olive Street
Marshalltown, IA 50158

August 2008

Business to Business Showcase
Sponsorship still available

September 2008

United Way Kick-Off
United Bank & Trust
2101 South Center Street
Marshalltown, IA 50158

October 2008

CGA
16 East Main Street
Marshalltown, IA 50158

November 2008

Business to Business Showcase
Sponsorships still available

December 2008

5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

US Bank
123 West Main Street
Marshalltown, IA 50158

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.


Char Mayer celebrates 30 years with Maurices

Char Mayer has helped countless customers at the popular clothing store Maurices (2500 South Center Street, Marshalltown) and on April 26, she celebrates her 30th anniversary with the retailer.

Mayer grew up in Ferguson, spent a few short years in the Chicago area, but has spent the majority of her life in Marshalltown. She is a friendly face, willing to help customers find the right outfit for every day or a special occasion and has seen fashions change during her tenure with Maurices.

When asked why she's spent so many years in retail, she responded, "The customers. I am a people-person and enjoy helping people find something they like."


Customers are invited to stop into Maurices to congratulate Char on her thirty years of service to Maurices and the Marshalltown community.



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205 E. Linn St.
Marshalltown
752-7511

Carmicheal Back & Neck Care hosts Operation Paperback

In the last two years, with the help of generous Central Iowans, Dr. Carmicheal and staff have collected thousands of books and mailed boxes to hundreds of individual U.S. soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen throughout the world. Each box included approximately 20 paperback books, a pen and paper along with a stamped envelope, a bible, and note or brightly colored picture from the child who helped pack the box.



Many of our troops are serving far from home and living in facilities that provide few of the comforts of home. At the end of the duty day, the opportunity to escape into a good book is welcomed. When you join in Operation Paperback, you will let our troops know that you support them, and you have not forgotten them.

Paperback books or monetary donations can be dropped off at 17 East Southridge Road. For more information, contact Carmicheal Back & Neck Care at 641-753-5796.

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BUSINESS NEWS

39th Annual Scholastic Recognition Banquet

The Chamber will honor Marshall County high school seniors graduating in the top five percent of their graduating class at the 39th Annual Scholastic Banquet dinner on Thursday, April 30. The Scholastic Banquet is sponsored by Koehler Insurance and United Bank & Trust.

The honorees are from East Marshall, Green Mountain-Garwin, Marshalltown and West Marshall High Schools. This year's banquet speaker is Brian Heitoff, CEO of Consumers Energy.

The Chamber would like to thank the following businesses, whose sponsorships made the Scholastic Banquet possible: American Family Insurance - Bill Thiede Agency, Buena Vista University - Marshalltown Center, Drs. Burger & Squiers, Citizens Savings Bank, Dr. David Clark DDS, Eyecare Associates, Helfer's Auto Service, Hermanson Orthodontics, Home Federal Savings Bank, Independent Insurance Services, Lennox Manufacturing, Marshalltown Broadcasting (KFJB, KXIA), Marshalltown Community College, McFarland Clinic, RACOM, Raymon, Steve and Mary Rund.

If your business would like to be involved with the 39th Annual Scholastic Recognition Banquet, please contact Lynn Olberding at the Chamber of Commerce for sponsorship opportunities.



Aubrey Alfter
Marshalltown



Mike Bear
West Marshall



Shawn Bowers
East Marshall



Matthew Burt
GMG



Jena Diers
East Marshall



Michelle Dixon
East Marshall



Adam Lemker
Marshalltown



Shannon Metge
Marshalltown



Katelyn Metzger
Marshalltown



Tara Ohrt
Marshalltown



Melinda Perry
Marshalltown



Molly Pollpeter
Marshalltown



Alycia Preston
Marshalltown



Celeste Reker
West Marshall



Walker Seim
East Marshall



Madelyn Smith
GMG



Caitlin Stewart
Marshalltown



Ryan Uhlenberg
Marshalltown



Alison Vandegrift
Marshalltown



James Von Ahnen
West Marshall

Not pictured: Kristin Conrad, Marshalltown; Alyssa Matthews, Marshalltown; Regina Peterson, Marshalltown and Elizabeth Schrum, Marshalltown.

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CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

The Big Treehouse celebrates its 25th Birthday in 2008

Now, 25 years after its simple beginning in 1983, Mick Jurgensen still enjoys the creative aspect of his Treehouse hobby.

As a young child, Mick's "being alone spot" was in the low branches of the maple sapling in the backyard. The namesake bur oaks at Shady Oaks were not conducive to dreaming of a Treehouse. Today, the giant 200-year-old trees, branching above, continue to call out their mystery to every visitor.

Mick's multi-level structure in the maple tree has been called "The Ultimate Treehouse" with modern amenities. The Treehouse kitchen has a sink with running water, refrigerator and microwave. There is internet and telephone service. Wireless remotes activate Treehouse functions such as all lighting, three ceiling fans for air-conditioning, decorative water pump and music.

The Big Treehouse has one or two homes worth of lumber and between seven to eight thousand square feet of floor space. It is six stories, or 12-levels high, and is covered by maple leaves in summer. Like a Victorian home, it has two stairways: the original, internal winding stairway, and the newer, external 60-step spiral stairway. It is traditional to ring the bell when you reach the apex.

Mick has replicated both the visible 1901 M&SL Railroad Bridge to the east and the former 1918 Lincoln Highway Rainbow Arch Bridge complete with sound effects at each. There is a Covered Bridge Museum lined with a 158-year pictorial revue of Shady Oaks, Rock Valley and Marshall County history.

Throughout summer and fall, soothing hammered dulcimer music flows throughout the Big Treehouse



and over 400-feet of elevated walkways in the backyard. The 50-foot long flower box along the walkway and seven flower boxes on the Treehouse are watered by soaker hose. Over 40 hanging baskets are watered by drip lines. Thanks to Mick for creating this unique, timesaving watering system.

A Treehouse tour is a most unusual journey. Twenty-five years of visitors have encouraged Mick's dream to keep growing. Push button information and sound effects along the elevated walkways add intrigue.

The Big Treehouse was on the Discovery Channel in 2004, has been featured on most local TV and radio stations and numerous magazines and publications near and far (i.e., The Iowan, Midwest Living, Country Discoveries, American Profile, Farm Bureau Spokesman, Discover, Dodge Magazine, Bank Travel, etc.)

Each year an amazing number of travel books, well-kept magazines

or crumpled newspaper clippings are brought with visitors to satisfy their curiosity or verify the existence of the Big Treehouse.

We invite you to "Discover the Magic" that has attracted visitors from all 50 states, Washington DC, eight of the thirteen Canadian Provinces and 61 countries. Visitors, ranging in age from a few days to 96 years, come from all walks of life: bankers, doctors, ministers, lawyers, clubs (service and social), educators, exchange students, farmers, home-makers, retirees, children, etc.

Architects have made comments such as "Well crafted" and "Witty and smart construction," and they have called Mick an "Arboreal

architect."

Comments written in the guestbook include "Path to serenity," "Reinforces family values," "Incredible history tour," "Worth the trip," "Gentle beauty," "Grand attraction," "Iowa's treasure to the Nation," "Peaceful" and "Two thumbs up!"

Residents are encouraged to register in their 2008 guestbook at the "Hospitality Booth" and post a comment.

Tours are by appointment only, call 641-752-2946 to schedule. Please wear tennis shoes, no flip-flops. Bring your imagination and enjoy. There is a fee for tours.

For more information, visit the MCVB website at www.visitmarshalltown.org.



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752-5500
2110 South Center



Karri Henning, Broker/Owner
Valerie Vajgrt ★ Julie Blazek
Kristin Polley ★ Martha Garcia
Michelle Grewell ★ Pat Gulbranson
Janet Miller ★ G. Ward Miller ★ Ginny Nielson
Jane Chizek ★ Rick Beasley ★ Sherry Beasley
Melody Bennett ★ Phil Henning
Moises Garcia ★ David Gooding
Beth Barrett ★ Joan Johnson

CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

Tourism Office offers Tourism month promotion

The Iowa Tourism Office has again partnered with Kum & Go for an Iowa Tourism Month promotion. While Iowa Tourism Month is May, the promotion will run from May 1 through June 30.

Visitors to any of Iowa's 20 Welcome Centers can register to win a \$100 gas card (one per center). Web visitors can register online at traveliowa.com for a chance to win a \$500 gas card.

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

May 2008

Event	Date	Location
Bingo	Tuesdays	Senior Citizens Center
StoryTime	Tues. & Fri.	Public Library
Yu-Gi-Oh/Pokemon League	Thursdays	Public Library
Cyro Baptista Performance	May 1	Martha-Ellen Tye Playhouse
Wines of the World	May 2	Elmwood Country Club
Clock & Watch Auction	May 2-3	Tom Harris Auction
Dog Jog	May 3	6th Street Bike Path
Garage Sale	May 3	American Legion Hall
Garden Extravaganza	May 3	Main Street
Nature Story Hour	May 7	GrimesFarm & Cons Cntr
MCC Graduation	May 9	MCC Babe Harder Gym
Marshmallo Bike Ride	May 10	Y Cultural Center
Cook & Eat Event	May 10	IA Valley Ed/Training Cntr
Happy Mother's Day	May 11	
Spring Plant & Bake Sale	May 16-17	Anson Shelter House
Color in Floral Design	May 20	Fisher Community Center
Nature Story Hour	May 21	GrimesFarm & Cons Cntr
MHS Commencement	May 25	MHS Roundhouse

Post your 2008 events on the MCVB self-posting calendar at www.visitmarshalltown.com

May 2008

Date	Group	Location
May 7-9	International Assoc. for ID	BW Regency Inn
May 10	Garden Club Regional Mtg.	Fisher Comm Cntr
May 10-11	High school & Jr. High Rodeo	Central IA Fairgrounds
May 16-17	Toastmasters District 19 Conf	BW Regency Inn
May 17	M'town Street Rods Fun Run	Riverview Park
May 20-21	Home Sponsor Conference	BW Regency Inn

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AMBASSADOR VISITS



The Chamber Ambassadors celebrated a ribbon cutting at the Business and Technology Center at 3702 South Center Street on March 25. The Business & Technology Center is part of Iowa Valley Continuing Education.




Stephanie Snow of the New Iowan Center, 3405 South Center Street, was welcomed to the community by the Chamber Ambassadors on March 25. The New Iowan Center is part of the Iowa Workforce Development Center and help new residents to Iowa find employment.



The Chamber Ambassadors congratulated the staff at Bon-Worth on April 8 on their recent opening. Bon-Worth is a women's clothing store located at Marshall Town Center, 2500 South Center Street.



See pictures of past Ambassadors ribbon cuttings and courtesy calls on the Chamber website at www.marshalltown.org.

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.



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BUSINESS NEWS

Chamber Board holds annual retreat

Each year, as part of the Chamber's strategic planning process, Chamber board members meet for an afternoon to discuss Chamber programs and create priorities for the upcoming year.

This year's board planning retreat was held at the Harvester Golf Course on April 21, where board members gathered to strategize about the 2008/2009 Chamber fiscal year.

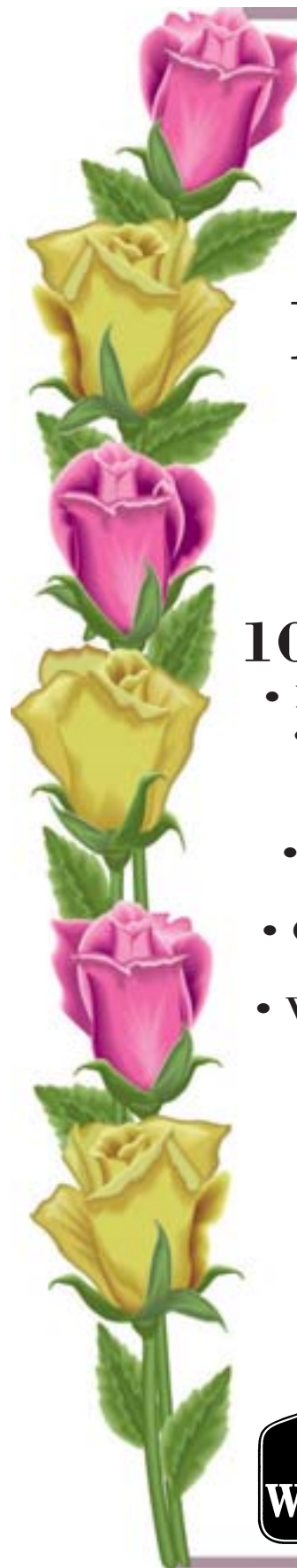
The board members looked at results from the recent membership survey that was emailed to Chamber members, as well as input from the Chairman's Roundtable luncheon. The Chairman's Roundtable is a group of the top twelve financial contributors to the Chamber, through dues and non-dues contributions.

"We know there is work to be done," said current board chairman, Bill Thiede of American Family Insurance. "But we feel we are creating a great plan for continued growth in the Chamber and community."

The 2008/2009 program priorities will be unveiled at the 110th Chamber Annual Meeting on June 26, 2008, at Elmwood Country Club.



Chamber board members discuss programs and priorities for the upcoming year at the Board Retreat on April 21.



DELICIOUS
DINING
for Mother's Day

MOTHER'S DAY BUFFET

May 11, 2008

10:45 a.m. - 2 p.m.

- Baron of Beef • Carved Ham
- Baked Chicken • Lasagna
- Large Array of Fresh Homemade Salads
- Whipped Potatoes & Gravy
- Sage Dressing
- Green Bean Casserole • Corn
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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

“Manufacturing in Iowa” report released

The recent announcement that the construction of four-lane Highway 30 between Colo and Highway 330 may be put on the state’s 5-year road construction plan is good news for Marshalltown and the Central Iowa area. Highway accessibility has recently been ranked as the number one concern for companies looking to expand or relocate. This finding was released as part of Area Development Magazine’s 22nd Annual Corporate Survey.

The nationwide survey, which seeks responses from companies of all sizes in multiple industries, is intended to help economic developers and community leaders focus on the most important site selection criteria. Each year, the magazine assembles a top 20 list of important site selection factors.

For the last few years, both highway accessibility and labor costs have been consistently ranked as the top concerns for companies. Proximity to major markets jumped from 13th place in 2006 to 10th place this year and proximity to suppliers moved from 21st place in 2006 to 15th place this year. This factor actually showed the largest percentage gain among all the site selection factors.

Besides the site selections factors, several other key findings were revealed by the survey. Obtaining accurate community data from the Internet continues to be a preferred method of obtaining information during site selection process by both companies and real estate consultants.

Economic development websites were rated as the best sites for obtaining the necessary information. In addition, almost half of the companies looking to relocate or expand have already narrowed down the geographic areas of consideration before hiring a local consultant.

With regards to quality of life, a low crime rate was considered the most desirable factor in a community with the ratings of public schools coming in second.

The complete corporate survey can be found at www.area-development.com.

2007 Site Location Factors (in order of importance)

1. Highway accessibility
2. Labor costs
3. Energy availability and costs
4. Availability of skilled labor
5. Occupancy or construction costs
6. Available land
7. Corporate tax rate
8. State and local incentives
9. Environmental regulations
10. Tax exemptions
11. Proximity to major markets
12. Availability of advanced ICT services
13. Low union profile
14. Availability of buildings
15. Proximity to suppliers
16. Expedited or “fast-track” permitting
17. Availability of unskilled labor
18. Availability of long-term financing
19. Raw materials availability
20. Training programs



For additional economic
development
information,
please visit
www.marshalltownworks.com.

Economic Statistics

Employment – Marshall County	Feb. 2008
Labor Force	20,150
Unemployed	1,010
Percent Unemployed	5.0
Total employment	19,140

Marshalltown Construction	Feb. 2008
Building permits	4
Residential Dwelling Units	4
New residential construction value	\$578,000
Residential addition/remodeling value	0
New commercial/industrial permits	0
New commercial/industrial value	\$1,204,000
Remodeling commercial/industrial value	\$30,000

Housing	Feb. 2008
Single Family Home Sales	33
Average Sale Price	\$90,292
Median Sale Price	\$81,700

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641-488-2214



John Hughes, Executive Director of McFarland Clinic - Marshalltown, spoke at their recent Business After Hours event, hosted in conjunction with Premier Office Equipment. The event highlighted the relationship between the two businesses, which happened as a result of the Target 5 - Buy In! program. Premier Office Equipment supplies office equipment to the entire McFarland Office and has added two staff members as a result of the agreement.

For more information on the Target 5 - Buy In! program, visit www.marshalltown.org/chamber/target5.php.

IVL 2009 Participants

It's not too early to start thinking about the Iowa Valley Leadership class of 2009. Do you know a community member that should be considered for the IVL class of 2009? Send contact information to Lorraine White at lorraine.white@ivalley.edu or Betsy Macke at betsy.macke@ivalley.edu.

Class members are exposed to a variety of community issues and programs through Iowa Valley Leadership. Classes are held monthly September through May.

IVL is co-sponsored by IVCE and the Chamber.

Romeo & Juliet at the MHS Auditorium



Once again the Marshall County Arts & Culture Alliance collaborates with UNI's Gallagher-Bluedorn to bring intriguing theater to the community.

Friday, April 25, TheatreworksUSA, New York, brings an updated version of Romeo and Juliet to the MHS Auditorium. A 10:00 a.m. performance allows high school students to see the show. An evening performance is open to the general public at 7:00 p.m. also at the MHS Auditorium. Ticket prices are \$10 per person for general admission seating and are available at the Marshalltown Public Library, Community Y and at the door.

According to the Barbara Pasternack, "Theatre has the power, in this age of sound bites and remote controls, to promote self reflection."

Theatreworks is embracing a new challenge of bringing teens into the theatre. The first production designed for a teen audience is ROMEO + JULIET by William Shakespeare. The concept is an apocalyptic Verona with an MTV, Matrix look, multi-ethnic cast, and futuristic rock music for an incidental score.

For more information, contact Beth Burkemper at the Marshall County Arts & Culture Alliance at 641-754-5616 or visit www.marshallcountyevents.com

A vertical advertisement for Buena Vista University at Marshalltown. At the top, it says "BVU @ MARSHALLTOWN". Below that is a large graphic with the text "CENTERED ON YOU" and "Courses begin every 8 weeks in Marshalltown". At the bottom, it says "Call for an appointment to see what you need to complete your 4-year degree!". The Buena Vista University logo is at the bottom, with the text "BUENA VISTA UNIVERSITY" and "call 641-752-0076 or 800.798.0076 located on the Marshalltown Community College campus".

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YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

MYP hosts Murder Mystery Dinner

MYP members enjoyed an evening in "Margaritaland" for a murder mystery dinner on April 5. Participants were assigned a character prior to arriving at the event and played out the events of the evening, one of which was the "murder" of character Jack Daniel, the beloved bartender at the Margaritaland Resort.

"Everyone had a great time," said event coordinator, David Hicks. "We hope to make this an annual event."

The evening also featured a number of awards: Best Dressed - Troy Case, Drama Queen - Connie Feldman and Sleuth Award - Denise Case.

The murder mystery dinner is just one of the many social events MYP hosts. The group also offers professional development events for its members. For more information on the Marshalltown Young Professionals, visit www.marshalltownyp.com or contact Lynn Olberding at the Chamber office at 641-753-6645 or by email (lolberding@marshalltown.org).



Participants pictured include Matt and Misty Roelsgard, Jason Olberding, Rusty and Connie Feldman, Eric Boone, Tim and Janelle Holmgren, Trent Albee, Chris and Cindy Brodin, Duane Dixon, David Hicks, Troy and Denise Case, Matt and Denise Kemp. Not pictured: Lynn Olberding.

The Perfect Setting host MYP Lunch and Learn

Pam Swarts, owner of The Perfect Setting, 13 West Main Street, hosted a group of young professional women on April 16 for a Lunch and Learn event on "Art in the Workplace."

Participants dined on a gourmet lunch while Swarts explained some basics concepts and "rules" regarding art at home and in your workspace.

"Art reflects your personality," said Swarts. "It should say something about who you are."

MYP Lunch and Learn events are held monthly on the third Wednesday of the month. The next event (May 21) will be hosted by BVU and MCC.

Do you know a young professional in the community that may be interested in the Marshalltown Young Professionals?

New members that sign up through May 31, 2008 receive membership through May 31, 2009 at a discounted rate!

Please contact Lynn Olberding at the Chamber, 641-753-6645, for more information.



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Target 5 - Buy In! Marketplace slated for May 2

After being cancelled in February, due to inclement weather, the Target 5 - Buy In! Marketplace is scheduled for Friday, May 2 from 7:30 - 9:00 a.m. in the Fisher Community Center Auditorium.

Purchasing representatives from Emerson Process Managements - Fisher Division, Lennox Manufacturing, Marshalltown Company, McFarland Clinic, and RACOM will be in attendance, with other businesses anticipated.

"This is a great way for business owners and managers to make one-on-one contact with representatives from some of Marshalltown's largest companies," said Chamber board chairman Bill Thiede. "We are very excited about this event

and the progress of the Target 5 - Buy In! program."

The format of the event will allow participating business representatives to schedule ten-minute meetings with the purchasing agents. Meetings will begin at 7:30 a.m., with the last meeting scheduled for 8:50 a.m.

"The doors will open at 7:00 a.m. to allow business owners and representatives an opportunity to sign up for meetings with the purchasing agents," said Chamber Director of Membership and Marketing, Lynn Olberding. "We want to help facilitate businesses utilizing the products and services available in the Marshalltown area. This is a great way to do that."

The Target 5 - Buy In! initiative encourages businesses to shift, not increase, at least five percent of their purchasing to local vendors. More than fifty businesses are currently participating in the program, which was launched in January 2007.

"We know that there are a number of businesses in the Marshalltown community, big and small, that do all or nearly all of their purchasing with local providers," said Olberding. "That's great news for Marshalltown."

Both the Target 5 - Buy In! program and the marketplace are offered free of charge to all Chamber member businesses. To register for the Target 5 program, visit www.marshalltown.org/chamber/target5.php.

Online registration is also available for the Target 5 Marketplace at www.marshalltown.org/chamber/events.php or by contacting the Chamber office.

Anyone interested in learning more about the Target 5 - Buy In! program is encouraged to visit the Chamber website or contact the Chamber office at 641-753-6645.



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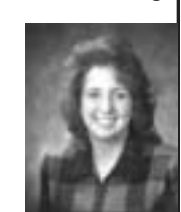
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