

# Chamber Digest

December 2008

Volume 26 Issue 7

## 2009 State Legislative Priorities set



### Upcoming Events

#### December 10: 5pm - 7pm

Holiday Mixer Business After Hours

US Bank

123 West Main Street

Good food. Good drinks. Good conversation.

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The Chamber Board of Directors approved the 2009 legislative priority recommendations of the Government Affairs Committee at its November meeting.

“Setting the legislative priorities is an important step in preparing for the upcoming session,” said Chamber Board Chairman Ric Anderson.

Monitoring issues, developing information for members and issuing legislative alerts are focused around these key priority issues.

“A legislative session is very dynamic, so we will also monitor other business-related issues and provide appropriate information as any issue may develop,” Chairman Anderson continued.

The Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce is one of the founding members of the Iowa Chamber Alliance, a coalition that represents 16 chambers of commerce and economic development organizations throughout the state ([www.iowachamberalliance.org](http://www.iowachamberalliance.org)). The Alliance will announce its 2009 legislative agenda on December 4 in Des Moines.

The annual Marshalltown Business Leaders Government Affairs luncheon is scheduled for Wednesday, January 14. Mr. Doug Loon, Regional VP for the U.S Chamber of Commerce and Mr. David Roederer, Executive Director of the Iowa Chamber Alliance will present up-to-date information on federal and state issues. The Chamber will also sponsor several Friday Forums during the legislative session and the date for the annual Des Moines Summit and Legislative Day will be announced next month.

The dates for the Washington D. C. Summit have been set for April 27 - 28, 2009. Dan Hasman, Chair-elect of MEDIC and Paul Gregorie, Chair-Elect of the Chamber are co-chairing the annual trip to Washington D.C.

Federal priorities will be announced in the near future.

### Property Tax Reform –

We believe that property tax reform is long overdue, so we call on the Legislature to comprehensively reform Iowa’s property tax system. The current system that links agricultural productivity and residential values is a major factor that is placing an undue burden on commercial properties. Iowa’s commercial property owners (primarily small businesses) are taxed on 100 percent of their assessed value, while residential property owners pay taxes on approximately 44 percent of their assessed value due to the assessment limitation or rollback. According to the most recent 50-State Property Tax Comparison Study, Iowa’s urban commercial property tax rates are the fifth highest in the nation, with rural commercial property tax rates similarly ranking among the top ten highest.\* We believe that reform of Iowa’s property tax system will occur incrementally, and therefore modifying the rollback would be the logical first step. We support freezing the rollback percentage at its current level and then adding one percent per year to get to a permanent floor for the residential property tax rollback at 50% of value.

\*Source: Iowa Taxpayers Association, 2006 Report

### Workforce –

The availability of an adequate well-trained workforce is one of Iowa’s most pressing economic development issues. Generally we support initiatives that are aimed at strengthening early childhood resources and education, raising high school education standards and increasing continuing education/job training efforts.

*Continued on Page 5*

# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

## Schendel Pest Control

Bill Schendel is known to a lot of people as “The Bug Man,” but the services Schendel Pest Control provides go far beyond bugs.

In 1955, Bill’s dad William started Schendel Pest Control in Marshalltown, after working with Bill’s uncle Robert in pest control in Kansas and receiving his degree in entomology from Kansas State University. Today, William serves as the company’s President and son Bill serves as manager. Both William and Bill have served on several committees and boards for state and national Pest Control Associations. In 2000, Bill served as the President of the Iowa State Pest Control Association.



The company offers a variety of pest control services including: residential, commercial and farm pest control; municipal and residential mosquito control; wildlife and bird control; and termite inspection and treatment. They also carry a line of do-it-yourself products for those home and business owners that want to tackle a pest problem on their own.

Schendel Pest Control has been a long-time Chamber member, participating in Chamber programs such as Target 5 - Buy In!, the annual Home Show and the recent Business to Business Showcase. Each year at the annual Home Show, the Schendel Pest Control booth is a crowd favorite with a display of pesky pests.

“I appreciate all the chamber does to foster business growth in our area, and in turn it is the least I could do to support them by being a member,” said Schendel. “I am a Target 5 participant because I provide services for our local businesses as well as for many of their owners’ and employees’ homes. It makes good sense to keep my business local with these people. We get more than a monetary return, it is the connections and relationships we make with people right here.”

For more information on Schendel Pest Control, call 641-752-0986 or visit [www.schendelpestcontrol.com](http://www.schendelpestcontrol.com).



**Bill Schendel, manager of Schendel Pest Control stands in front of their display at the recent Business to Business Showcase at the Fisher Community Center Auditorium.**

## 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.

### Central Iowa Bookkeeping

Cheryl Jefferson & Carolyn Anderson  
26 South 1st Avenue - Suite 221 (Masonic Temple Building)  
Marshalltown, IA 50158  
641-352-4600

*Central Iowa Bookkeeping provides a variety of bookkeeping services including payroll, payroll tax compliance, quarterly and year-end reports along with W-2s and 1099s.*

### Hawkins Electrical Service LLC

Craig Hawkins, Owner  
PO Box 141  
Laurel, IA 50141  
641-476-4400

*The experts at Hawkins Electrical Service have the training, experience and equipment to carry out your electrical project.*

## Help shape Marshalltown’s future and make this an even better place to live, work and raise a family!

For more information on the Imagine 2011 7 Big Ideas, visit [www.imagine2011.com](http://www.imagine2011.com).



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- Upholstery Restoration

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- Commercial

# LEADERSHIP

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## Board of Directors

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**Bill Thiede**  
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V.C. Business Growth & Development  
**Liz Zuercher**  
V.C. Government Affairs  
**Doug Joslin**  
V.C. Membership  
**John Hughes**  
V.C. Quality of Life  
**Bill Grabe**  
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**Doug Beals**  
**Ellen Bergman**  
**Scott Carnahan**  
**Jacque Goodman**  
**Jim Gruening**  
**Fauna Nord**  
**Jeff Vance**

**Ex-Officio**  
**Gene Beach**  
City of Marshalltown  
**Deanna Davis**  
MCVB



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**Ken Anderson**  
President  
**Lynn Olberding**  
Director of Membership & Marketing  
**Shauna Banks**  
Administrative Assistant  
**Tami Kerwood**  
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.



## Board of Directors

**Dan Hassman**  
Chair Elect  
**Jim Lowrance**  
Treasurer  
**Rob Cooper**  
Secretary  
**Brian Heitoff**  
Past Chair

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**John Hermanson**  
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**Leon Lamer**  
**Mike Miller**  
**Loras Neuroth**  
**Mike Schlesinger**  
**Kevin Swartz**  
**Don Turbiville**  
**Kenn Vinson**  
**Glenn Ytzen**

## Ex-Officio

**Marvin Wade**  
**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.

Bob's Farm Center	17
Boland Recreation	7
Comfort Inn	11
Farmers Savings Bank	8
Five Star	14
Fritz Chiropractic	11
Goodwill Employment	2
<b>Hartwig Plumbing</b>	<b>50</b>
How'Gan Electric	11
Interface Sealing Solutions	13
Jerry Johnson Pro Shop	16
John Ernest Vineyard & Winery	1
LWBJ	8
Oktemberfest	14
Premier Office Equipment	7
Spahn & Rose	7
<b>Southridge Nursing &amp; Rehab</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Temp Associates</b>	<b>10</b>
TSP	11
USA Staffing	2

For a complete list of Chamber members, visit [www.marshalltown.org](http://www.marshalltown.org).

## Business After Hours

**December 10, 2008**

5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

US Bank

123 West Main Street  
Marshalltown, IA 50158

**January 15, 2009**

5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Fisher Community Center  
Auditorium  
709 South Center Street  
Taste of Marshalltown  
Business After Hours

**February 2009**

Home Federal Savings Bank  
303 West Main 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.**

**Business After Hours and Business to Business Showcase events are great ways to promote your business!**



*"Your Hometown Tire and Auto Service Center"*

# McAtee

Tire & Service Center, Inc.



**205 E. Linn St.  
Marshalltown  
752-7511**

# 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.

## Perfect Setting addition

The Perfect Setting, 13 West Main Street, announces the remodeling and addition of a new department, "The Perfect Party." Find gourmet food mixes, ceramic serving pieces, artful napkins, wine and wine accessories, so you can be the perfect host!

## Call for 2009 anniversaries and celebrations

Is your business celebrating an anniversary in 2009? The Chamber office is collecting these dates in order to promote your business in the Chamber Digest in recognition of your anniversary or celebration.

If your business celebrates a special anniversary or an employee of your firm will be recognized for a significant employment anniversary in 2009, please send the information via email to Lynn Olberding at lolberding@marshalltown.org.

## www.marshalltown.org Statistics

	Oct 08	YTD Total	Avg/Month
Unique Visitors	3,469	36,637	3,664
Number of Visits	5,309	57,342	5,734
Page Views	32,345	302,025	30,203
Hits	124,695	1,267,886	126,789

Page views on the Chamber's website were up 27% in October 2008 compared to October 2007.

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.

## Strands celebrates 30 years

Strands: The Decorating Store is celebrating 30 years of providing quality flooring, window treatments, wall coverings, paint, home decor and decorating services to the Marshalltown area.

Strands is located at 11 East Meadow Lane.

## Younkers opens shoe store

Younkers hosted a grand opening of their new shoe store at Marshall Town Center on November 8. The store houses men's, women's and children's footwear and will be open Younkers store hours.

*Receive Total Home Comfort At*

**KAPAUN & BROWN, Inc.**

*A Premier Lennox Dealer*



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# www.everydaychampions.org

# BUSINESS NEWS

## 2009 State Legislative Priorities

*Continued from Page 1.*

### **Fair Share –**

We oppose any initiative such as “fair share or agency fee” legislation. Iowa’s Right-to-work law is a key part of our economic development message. We believe that adopting “fair share or agency fee” legislation would in fact alter Iowa’s standing as a Right-to-work state.

### **Employee Choice of Doctor –**

We are opposed to any changes in the workers compensation system that would allow an employee their choice of doctor, because of the estimated significant increase in costs this would have without any significant improvement in the outcome.

### **Prevailing Wage –**

We are opposed to the requirement of a prevailing wage for government contracts, because we believe it will add significant costs to the projects and it will shutout small contractors from bidding on government contracted work.

### **Collective Bargaining –**

We are opposed to adding items that can be negotiated to Iowa’s public employee collective bargaining. Associated costs of wide-open bargaining will eventually be done with taxpayers’ dollars, putting additional strain on a property tax.

### **Time 21 –**

Continuous investment in Iowa’s public road system is essential to support economic growth. Recent studies project that the need to preserve and build new roads and bridges in Iowa will far exceed available revenues. We support the Time 21 formula that allocates 60 percent of revenues to the state/primary road fund, 20 percent to the counties/secondary road fund and 20 percent to the cities/street construction fund. We support increasing revenues, including the possibility of a gas tax increase, aimed at raising approximately \$200 million annually to more aggressively build the identified commercial/industrial network.

For more information on the Chamber’s Government Affairs program, please visit [www.marshalltown.org/chamber/government.php](http://www.marshalltown.org/chamber/government.php).

## Federation Partnership benefits

The Chamber recently updated your business information with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in order to allow you access to the Federation Partnership program benefits.

The Federation Partnership program provides your business a U.S. Chamber membership, while growing the pro-business voice. This partnership grows value for your business by giving you two memberships for the price of one. There is no additional cost for this benefit, as long as you maintain your membership with the Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce.

This initiative helps develop a larger, unified network of business advocates, giving the business community more leverage to influence policies and policymakers on the issues that matter most.

Federation Partnership’s business members can take advantage of new benefits available through U.S. Chamber membership, from solutions to help run their businesses more efficiently to grassroots tools and information.

You will receive email notification from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce on how to take advantage of this membership benefit.



## *YOUR FINANCIAL FUTURE IS OUR NUMBER 1 PRIORITY!*

We have a wide variety of products and services available to construct a portfolio consistent with your financial goals and objectives.

Call Your AIG Financial Advisor Representative today and let us help you plan your financial future.



**Kileen D. Rezac, CFP**  
Branch Office Manager  
25 S. Center  
Marshalltown, IA 50158  
641-752-2041/800-369-1588

### **AIG Financial Advisors**

**AIG Financial Advisors, Inc.**  
Member FINRA and SPIC

Securities offered through AIG Financial Advisors, Inc., a registered broker-dealer, member FINRA, SIPC. Investment advisory services offered through Kileen D. Rezac, RIA, a registered investment advisor.



**Save the Date!**  
**Business Leaders Luncheon with**  
**Doug Loon, U.S. Chamber of Commerce**  
**Wednesday, January 14, 2009**  
**Noon at the Fisher Community Center**

# CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

## Travel Federation of Iowa announces 2009 Legislative Priorities

The Travel Federation of Iowa is a statewide grassroots organization whose mission is to advance the \$6.3 billion dollar tourism industry in Iowa. Each year TFI identifies priorities for the upcoming legislative session and reveals them during the Iowa Tourism Conference held in October. The priorities for 2009 are listed below;

**Priority 1:** Increase the Iowa Tourism Office budget to the Midwest regional average of \$10.2 million. Iowa's FY09 tourism budget is \$5 million dollars, while the regional average is \$10.2 million dollars. Although it is less than half of the regional average, we are (with the help of local tourism partners) still able to generate \$6.3 billion in expenditures and \$303 million in state tax receipts, with 28.3 million visitors annually to our state. We need support from our State Legislators to increase the Tourism Office budget to the \$10.2 million average to create a competitive opportunity for Iowa.

**Priority 2:** Enforce the current school start date. Over the past decade, Iowa schools have moved the start of school earlier each year. Iowa law states that classes may begin not earlier than a day during the calendar week in which September 1st falls, unless September 1st is a Sunday and in that case, classes may begin any day during the week before September 1st.

The Iowa Department of Education has indiscriminately granted waivers to all school districts that submit a school start date waiver request. This has resulted in our summers being cut shorter each year. This causes tourist attractions to close earlier due to employees having to return to school. In turn decreasing the amount of revenue generated for the state through tourism.

**Priority 3:** Continue to Support TIME 21 Funding to repair and improve Iowa's Road system. According to a recent independent study by the Reason Foundation only seven states have primary roads in worse condition than Iowa, only 18 have rural interstates in worse condition and only three states have urban interstates in worse condition. Another study by the Transportation Research Information Program ranked Iowa with the fourth highest percentage of structurally deficient bridges. During the last legislative session the legislature, in a bi-partisan manner, passed phase one of TIME 21 – new funding for state, county and city roads. But that was just the beginning. In 2009 the legislature will be called upon to pass phase two, an additional \$100 million annually for our streets and roads.

Through its lobbyist and local district leaders, TFI will present its priorities to the legislators throughout the 2009 Legislative Session. Those involved in the tourism industry will have an opportunity to talk with Legislators one on one during the Legislative Showcase held in February at the Iowa State Fairgrounds.

For more information about TFI visit [www.travelfederationofiowa.org](http://www.travelfederationofiowa.org).



For the time and a description of the events below, log on to the MCVB website's Calendar of Events at [www.VisitMarshalltown.com](http://www.VisitMarshalltown.com)

### December 2008

Date	Event	Location
Tuesdays	Bingo	Senior Citizens Center
Tues. & Fri.	StoryTime	Public Library
Nov. 21-Dec. 31	Optimist Holiday Lights	Courthouse Square
Dec. 3	Nature's Story Hour	Grimes Farm
Dec. 6-7	Advent Event	St. Mary Parish
Dec. 7	Handel's Messiah	Methodist Church
Dec. 17	Nature's Story Hour	Grimes Farm
Dec. 24	MCVB Closed at Noon	
Dec. 25-26	MCVB Offices Closed	

Post your 2008 and 2009 events on the MCVB self-posting calendar at [www.visitmarshalltown.com](http://www.visitmarshalltown.com)

### December 2008

Date	Group	Location
Dec. 6-7	MATT Statewide Invitational	MCC

Thank you for making Marshalltown your destination!

## Visit Santa at Marshall Town Center through Christmas Eve

Make a trip to see Santa a priority this holiday season, by checking in with the Kris Kringle himself at Marshall Town Center.

The mall has a new Santa set this, located next to Tradehome Shoes.

Santa hours are:

- November 22: Noon - 8pm
- November 23: Noon - 5pm
- November 28: Noon - 8pm
- November 29 - December 21  
Thursdays & Fridays: 5 - 8pm  
Saturdays: Noon - 8pm  
Sundays: Noon - 5pm
- December 22: Noon - 8pm
- December 23: Noon - 8pm
- December 24: Noon - 3pm



Again this year, Marshall Town Center will host "Pet Night with Santa" on Sunday, December 7 and Sunday, December 14 from 6 - 8pm. To schedule your appointment, please contact the Mall Office at 641-752-6200.

For more information on mall hours, stores and holiday events, visit the mall's website.



# CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

## “Merry Marshalltown Volume II”

Merry Marshalltown CD's make a great gift or stocking stuffer for that hard to buy person. Everyone loves holiday music. John Kunc and Andy Rhodes have put together a wonderful new CD featuring all local artists. Enjoy the sounds of “Rockin’ Around the Christmas Tree” performed by Major Day, “Jingle Bells” performed by the Marshalltown Men’s Choir Barbershop Quartet, and eight other songs by local artists. The CD's are available for \$15.00 and are on sale in various downtown locations as well as the Marshalltown Chamber of Commerce offices. If you missed the first volume of Merry Marshalltown, you can still pick one up at the Chamber office to complete your set; buy both CD's for \$20.00. You can listen to a sample of the CD on the MCVB website at [www.visitmarshalltown.com](http://www.visitmarshalltown.com).



**“When Success  
and Experience Count...  
Put the Best to  
Work For You!”**



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**Karri Henning, Broker/Owner**  
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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

## “CASTAWAY” HERE & DANCE TO “LOOSE NEUTRAL” This New Year's Eve

We Invite You To Join Our <sup>24</sup> Hour Tour!

### CASTAWAY PACKAGE

**\$149 Per Couple**

- Standard guest room for two
- “Surf & Turf” dinner for two
- Two dance tickets/reserved seats
- Two drink tickets at the party
- Breakfast Buffet New Year's Day

**DRESS UP AS YOUR FAVORITE “CASTAWAY” AND  
QUALIFY TO WIN PRIZES.**

We hope to see many dressed as Gilligan, Mary Ann, Ginger, Mr. & Mrs. Howel, the professor, and of course the “Skipper, too”!

PLAY “WHO WANTS TO BE A GILLIGANAIRE” and qualify to win prizes. Study up on the castaways and get ready to answer some questions. It will be fun!

**BOOK YOUR PACKAGE BY DEC. 22, 2008 AND  
YOUR NAME GOES INTO A DRAWING FOR:**

New Year's Eve Castaway Package (drawing on Dec. 29)  
Overnight stay in the Regency Suite (drawing NYE);  
\$50 gift card for dinner in the Junction Bar & Grill (drawing on NYE)

**“SURF & TURF” DINNER ONLY \$26 Per Person**  
Served @ 7:30 p.m.

6 oz. Bacon Wrapped Filet and 4-Skewered Shrimp served with Caesar Salad, New Baby Red Potatoes, Vegetable Blend, Homemade Dinner Rolls, and Chocolate Layer Cake with Strawberry Garnish, Coffee or Tea

**DANCE TICKETS ONLY \$10 Per Person 9 p.m.-1 a.m.** Tickets sold in advance or at the door.

Mr. Howell - Get  
your Tux From Mary  
Katherine's!  
Only \$50!!!!  
119 E. Main  
Marshalltown  
753-0550



**Regency  
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641-752-6321 • 800-241-2974



# AMBASSADORS VISITS



The Chamber Ambassadors visited Don Turbiville at R.S. Stover (3809 S. Center St.) to celebrate the company's more than 45 years as a Chamber member with a courtesy call on October 28. The R.S. Stover Co. joined the Chamber in 1960.



The Chamber Ambassadors visited the staff at Bowman & Miller, P.C., (24 E. Main St.) on November 11 for a courtesy call to celebrate the firm's more than forty years as a Chamber member. Bowman & Miller, P.C. joined the Chamber in 1964.



Murt Steffen greeted the Chamber Ambassadors who visited Southridge Nursing and Rehab Center (309 W. Merle Hibbs Blvd.) for a courtesy call on October 28. Southridge Nursing and Rehab celebrated forty years as a Chamber member in October.



Jerry and Kim Gratopp celebrated the grand opening of their catering business, Smokin' G's BBQ, with a ribbon cutting hosted by the Chamber Ambassadors. Smokin' G's is a home-based catering business, located at 2697 Underwood Ave. They can be reached at 641-751-1427.

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.

**See pictures of past Ambassadors  
ribbon cuttings and courtesy calls on  
the Chamber website at  
[www.marshalltown.org](http://www.marshalltown.org).**



# BUSINESS NEWS

## Crowd enjoys November Business to Business Showcase



Chamber members enjoyed good food, good drinks and good conversation at the November Business to Business Showcase. These events are scheduled quarterly and take the place of a monthly Business After Hours event. The Business to Business Showcase is another way the Chamber continues Target 5 - Buy In! efforts.

A large crowd gathered at the Fisher Community Center Auditorium on Tuesday, November 11 for the Holiday Kick-off Business to Business Showcase. The key sponsor of the event was **Hy-Vee Food Store**.

Table sponsors included:

American Family Insurance - Bill Thiede Agency  
The Bath & Kitchen Shop  
Central Iowa Bookkeeping  
Coldwell Banker Premier Real Estate - Fauna Nord & Sheri Upah  
Independent Insurance Services  
KFJB/KIX 101.1  
King Graphics  
Marshalltown Area Catholic Schools  
Marshalltown Young Professionals  
McGregor's Furniture  
Meskwaki Bingo-Casino-Hotel  
Midwest Construction  
Regional Food Systems Working Group  
Schendel Pest Control  
Smokin G's BBQ Catering Service

## Electronic Engineering

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# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## Reports support Iowa's attributes

As Iowans, we benefit from short commutes, safe neighborhoods, affordable housing, and easy access to a wide variety of multicultural and recreational opportunities. The state consistently receives high marks in the annual surveys taken to determine the best places in America to live and recent national and local reports confirm the high marks.

According to various surveys, Iowa has the best quality of life and the 3rd highest public high school graduation rate. It ranks 5th as most livable state and is ranked the 7th best state to raise a child.

Iowa also achieved the position of ranking as the nation's 5th most livable state and is the 6th healthiest state. It is ranked as the 8th safest state and 9th smartest state. For business, Iowa is ranked as the 3rd lowest for costs of doing business.

Besides these rankings for Iowa, Marshall County is comparing better than the rest of the nation in several areas.

Marshall County's September unemployment rate was 4.6 percent matching the year-to-date average for Marshall County. The national unemployment rate for September was 6.1 percent.

Marshalltown Board of Realtors figures show the median single family home sale price in 2007 was \$95,000; the national median was \$217,800. The Marshall County monthly median apartment rent is \$596 compared to the national gross median apartment rent of \$753.

According to Money Magazine's list of the best small places with short commute times, Marshalltown ranks 12th in the nation with an average commute time of 10.7 minutes. This is well below the national average or 24.4 minutes.

In addition, Marshalltown's water was recently voted "The Best Drinking Water in Iowa for 2008."

All these rankings and ratings confirm what Iowans already know -- Iowa is a great place to live, work, play, and raise a family.

## Dates set for 2009 Summit

The dates for the 2009 Washington D.C. Summit are set and plans are underway. The Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce and Marshall Economic Development Impact Committee's 18th Annual lobbying trip will be April 27 - 28, 2009. The next planning meeting is scheduled for December 10 at 9:00 a.m.



**Marshall**  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
IMPACT COMMITTEE

For additional economic development information, please visit [www.marshalltownworks.com](http://www.marshalltownworks.com).

It is a great resource for current demographic information about Marshalltown, Marshall County and the state of Iowa.

## Economic Statistics

<b>Employment – Marshall County</b>	<b>Sept 2008</b>	<b>YTD</b>
Labor Force	20,570	20,550
Unemployed	940	960
Percent Unemployed	4.6	4.6
Total employment	19,620	19,600

<b>Marshalltown Construction</b>	<b>Sept 2008</b>	<b>YTD</b>
Building permits	20	133
Residential Dwelling Units	2	66
New residential construction value	\$312,000	\$9,036,000
Residential addition/remodel value	\$97,000	\$856,800
New commercial/industrial permits	1	11
New commercial/industrial value	\$475,000	\$3,584,000
Remodeling commercial/industrial value	\$381,000	\$22,222,000

<b>Housing</b>	<b>Sept 2008</b>	<b>YTD</b>
Single Family Home Sales	46	303
Average Sale Price	\$115,804	\$115,804
Median Sale Price	\$96,450	\$96,450



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# BUSINESS NEWS

## Chamber/MEDIC Transportation Committee To Set Development Priorities

Success or near success is an apt description of where we are in accomplishing our transportation priorities. The priorities that were established several years ago are being accomplished, or are on track to be completed in the next 2-3 years. "It is time to analyze the status of our priority list, and to set new goals that will continue to make our transportation system competitive into the future," said Glenn Ytzen, committee Chairman.

Here are some highlights of the success:

### Highway 30 -

The Tama-Toledo bypass is under construction, and plans are in place to improve the Meskwaki Casino entrance. The Colo to State Center section was already in the 5-year construction program, and, thanks to anticipated additional funding provided by the increase in fees approved by the 2008 Legislature, the State Center to Highway 330 section has been added to the 5-year program. It appears at this time that both of these sections will be graded in 2009 and paved in 2010.

### Highland Acres Road -

The southern section from Campbell Drive is completed, and the bridge over Linn Creek and the new viaduct over the UP tracks are both completed. Grading of the northern section to Lincoln Way is expected to be done in 2009 with paving in 2010.

### Quiet Zone -

The Twelfth Avenue crossing has been upgraded, and the City is in negotiations with the UP about upgrading the crossings at 6th Street and 12th Street. What happens at the 2nd Street crossing is in play as part of these negotiations.

### Trails -

The IDOT Commission approved \$800,000 to help with the construction to complete the trail between Grimes Farm and the 330 section. Additional grants and a local fund raising effort are needed to complete the funding necessary for this project. It is anticipated that the trail could be built in 2010.

### Airport -

We continue to have success in attracting the funds necessary to improve the airport. There are some significant projects for the next phase of our airport development that need to be in place.

Discussions about the transportation priorities by the committee has begun, and these priorities will be announced early in the new year.

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# YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

## Marshalltown Young Professionals make plans for 3rd Annual *Sip.Savor.Support.* Wine Tasting

For the past two years, the Marshalltown Young Professionals have hosted a fundraising event called *Sip.Savor.Support.* This event has benefited the Community Y's Partner with Youth campaign.

The third annual event is scheduled for Wednesday, February 11 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at Elmwood Country Club. This year's event will again feature wines from John Ernest Vineyard & Winery of Tama. The wine tasting will also feature a silent auction, with a portion of all proceeds benefiting the Partner with Youth campaign.

"We are excited to host this event again in 2009," said Denise Kemp, MYP President. "It's been a great event for our organization, as well as the Y's Partner with Youth campaign. Thanks to the donations of those who attended the first two events, the Marshalltown Young Professionals have donated \$3,500 to the campaign."

Tickets will be available in early 2009. If your business would like to be involved in this 3rd annual event, please contact Lynn Olberding at the Chamber office at 641-753-6645.

## MYP members to participate in *Live Healthy Iowa* challenge

On January 14, a team of Marshalltown Young Professionals members will compete in the *Live Healthy Iowa* challenge with YP organizations from across the state, in a coordinated effort by YPIowa.



The *Live Healthy Iowa* program is a 100 day team-based weight loss and physical activity challenge. The program, formerly known as Lighten Up Iowa, is designed to assist teammates in making positive changes that lead to a healthier lifestyle. The 100 day challenge runs from January 14 through April 23, 2009.

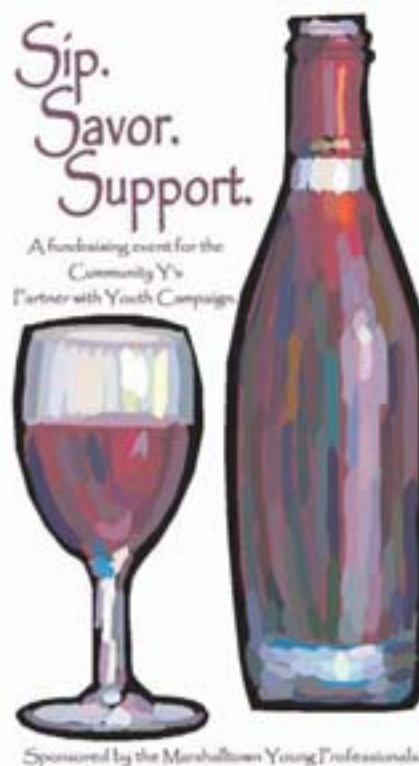
The Marshalltown team will compete with YP teams from Dubuque, Sioux City, Ames and Des Moines for a traveling trophy and the satisfaction of knowing they made a positive physical change to their bodies.

With an online tool at its heart ([www.livehealthyiowa.org](http://www.livehealthyiowa.org)), Live Healthy Iowa makes it easy for friends, family members and businesses to form teams, encourage one another and track individual and group weight loss and minutes of activity.

There is still time for MYP members to get signed up for this challenge. The entry fee includes both the weight loss and physical activity portions of the challenge, a t-shirt, free entry into the Summer and Winter Iowa Games fitness walk, weekly nutrition and physical activity tips, chances to win monthly incentives and prizes, and a one-year subscription to one of six lifestyle magazines. Contact Lynn Olberding to get signed up.



Attendees at the 2nd Annual *Sip.Savor.Support.* Wine Tasting event enjoy John Ernest wines and good conversation.



**Save the Date:**  
**3rd Annual *Sip.Savor.Support.***  
**Wine Tasting**  
**Wednesday, February 11, 2009**  
**6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

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# BUSINESS NEWS

## Area Dollars make great gifts or incentives!

If you're in charge of picking out gifts for friends, family members and employees this holiday season, consider purchasing Area Dollars. Area Dollars are a great gift for birthdays, anniversaries, holidays, bonuses or incentives. They are available in \$10, \$20 or \$25 increments and can be redeemed at any of the nearly 475 Chamber member businesses.

Use them at local retail stores, pay your utility bill or donate them to a local organization. Area Dollars are truly the gift with a perfect fit!

You can purchase Area Dollars at the Chamber office at 709 South Center Street, Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and Fridays from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Cash, Check, Visa and MasterCard are accepted as payment.

If you have a large order, please feel free to phone or fax your order in ahead of time and it will be ready for you to pick up at your convenience.

"Area Dollars are a great way to support the Target 5 - Buy In! program," said Chamber Board



**Marshalltown Area Dollars are a great holiday gift for anyone on your list. Purchase yours at the Chamber office. Available in \$10, \$20 and \$25 increments and redeemable at any Chamber member business. Cash, Check, Visa and MasterCard accepted.**

Chairman Ric Anderson. "Area Dollars are spent locally and help our local economy."

A list of participating businesses is included with every Area Dollars order. Area Dollars are good for one year, however, they can be reissued should you find yourself with expired certificates.

Area Dollars are available for purchase throughout the year. More than \$140,000 in Area Dollars are sold each year. That's \$140,000 that is kept locally!

The Chamber office will close at noon on Wednesday, December 24 and will be closed December 25 and 26.

Please plan to pick up your Area Dollars on or before December 24.

For more information on Area Dollars or the Target 5 program, visit [www.marshalltown.org](http://www.marshalltown.org).



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