

the**DIGEST**

June 2025

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Alex Ferneau joins Chamber team as Marshall County Economic Development Director

The Chamber is excited to welcome, Melbourne native Alex Ferneau to the team as Marshall County Economic Development Director as of May 5th.

“We are so pleased to have Alex joining our team. Her personality and skillsets lend themselves well to this work and I think we will see incredible progress in a short time with her ability to build connections throughout Marshall County,” said Chamber President and CEO John Hall. “We know there are opportunities that our rural communities can pursue to overcome the direction they have been heading over the last few decades with declining and aging populations. Over and over, we see younger residents banding together to push new life and energy into their community. With the support, led by Alex, we can provide them, their city leadership, and the businesses in those communities, acceleration of their goals and chart a new course for all of Marshall County.”



Alex Ferneau

Photo courtesy of Stalzer Photography

Ferneau attended the West Marshall school system and has lived in the area most of her life. Her role as economic development director is to help Marshall County towns grow, thrive, improve and become places young people wish to stay. “I really want to work with the agricultural community — that’s a goal of mine — and to help younger people want to stay around Marshall County,” she said. She’s spent her time on the job so far traveling the county, getting to know local officials and the general public. “We talk about goals. It’s based on what the communities want and who they want me to visit, or if they have ideas,” she noted.

Leadership Marshalltown 2024-2025 Class Complete

The Leadership Marshalltown class of 2024/2025 has officially graduated. Participants spent nine months learning what it really means to be a leader, exploring tough interpretations, learning how and when to raise the heat, heard from community leader panels and toured local businesses. The class wrapped up on Thursday, May 15, which included one last deep dive into leadership challenges, a tour around the MCC campus, and an Opportunity Fair where many organizations talked about what they do and how volunteers are vital to their work. We finished the day with a few class participants who spoke on what their experience in Leadership Marshalltown meant to them.

...continued on page 11

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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Glenwood Place has been in business for 24 years and was one of the first assisted living communities in Marshalltown. They began with only 36 assisted living apartments and as the demand grew for senior care, so did Glenwood Place. Glenwood Place now hosts 50 assisted living apartments, a cozy memory care, independent living apartments and spacious townhomes. With the rise of residents, they have 40 employees.



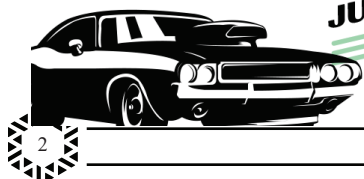
Glenwood Place provides premier senior living in the form of townhomes, independent and assisted living, memory care and respite care. A little-known secret is that Glenwood's community culture is based around the "Red Carpet" philosophy. It is their goal each day to provide Red Carpet services and experiences to each resident who calls Glenwood Place home along with family members and guests who visit. They are a proud member of Senior Provider Alliance, an Elite Grand Champion fundraiser for the Alzheimer's Association, Rotary and the Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce.

Glenwood Place Community Relations Brooke Davis stated, "Marshalltown provides a big town atmosphere with a small-town feel. We enjoy discovering a common connection with new residents who have called Marshalltown home for so many years." Davis continued, "Our staff tenure is something to take pride in. Many of our management staff have been with Glenwood Place for several years. Our goal is to provide a happy and healthy work environment, in turn, we provide a happy and healthy home for our residents."

Glenwood will be hosting their 8th Annual Cruise For A Cause car show benefiting the Alzheimer's Association. This event is June 19, 2025 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy an evening of classic cars, great food, friends and live music by JJ Ace!

**A BENEFIT FOR THE
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8TH ANNUAL CLASSIC CAR SHOW
**CRUISE
FOR A
CAUSE**
JUNE 19
LIVE MUSIC BY
JJ ACE



New Chamber Members

The following businesses have invested in the greater community by joining the Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce.

Please support these businesses with your patronage.

CO2 Refrigeration Systems (CRS)

Zach Laws, President & CEO

Tom Gabriel, VP of Operations

1702 E. Anson Street, Marshalltown

www.co2refsystems.com

CO2 Refrigeration Systems (CRS) is disrupting the North American refrigeration market with state-of-the-art industrial refrigeration skids.

Headquartered in Marshalltown, IA, CRS offers CO2 refrigeration systems that maximize energy efficiency, reduce capital expenditure and minimize operational costs when compared to traditional refrigerants such as freon or ammonia.

Suncrest Home Health & Hospice

Michelle Sweeney, Hospice Liaison

Daniel Ihrke, Home Health Liaison

103 E. 64th Street, Suite 210, Ames

515-327-6026

Suncrestcare.com

Suncrest Hospice brings exceptional care, support, and dignity to your loved ones final days. Services include nurse and CNA visits, social work, chaplain support, music therapy, massage therapy, pet therapy and volunteer visits. Patients receive an average of 8-10 visits per week from locally hired nurses and CNA's!

If you or a loved one is recovering from an illness or injury, or requires assistance for chronic impairments, the home health team is ready to help! Services include skilled nursing visits, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, medical social work support, and bath aide services.



May 2025 Business After Hours at
Marshall County Abstract

56th Annual Scholastic Banquet

On Wednesday, May 7th the Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce hosted the 56th Annual Scholastic Banquet at the Marshalltown Arts & Civic Center. This annual event honors the top 5% of graduating seniors from Marshall County schools: East Marshall High School, Green Mountain-Garwin High School, Marshalltown High School, and West Marshall High School. Thank you to all of the 56th Annual Scholastic Banquet sponsors!

Gold Sponsors: Ace Precision International, Alerus Financial Corporation, Gregg Young Automotive Group, and M. Gervich & Sons.

Silver Sponsors: MARSHALLTOWN Company and Marshalltown Community College

Friend of Education Sponsors: GNB Bank, McFarland Clinic, Mitchell Family Funeral Services, and RACOM Corporation.

Student Sponsors: Bowman & Miller PC, Jiffy Convenience Store, McGregors Furniture & Mattress, Smokin' G's BBQ Restaurant & Catering, Taylor's Maid-Rite and Trending Media (KIX 101.1, KFJB and KFJB-TV)

Photo contributed by the Marshalltown Community School District.



Thank You Reinvesting Chamber Members

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

Ace Precision International	13	Moler Sanitation	13
Arnold Motor Supply	32	Nikkel & Associates, Inc.	21
Bolton and Menk Inc.	6	Old Timer Tavern	13
Central Iowa Farm Store	27	Pinnacle Bank	29
Chef King	13	SERVPRO of Marshalltown	2
David Blom	1	Shoe Sensation	10
Ethington Heating & Cooling	32	Sign Creations	25
Farm Bureau Financial Services		Simms Construction	13
Agent Chris Edel	3	Sub City	25
Fencing Solutions	3	Theisen's Home-Farm-Auto	25
First Congregational Church	21	Tom Apgar	1
First Methodist Church	27	Vaughn's Pub	21
GWW, LLC.	1	The Willows	8
Lowe's Flowers	48	Woodruff Construction	8
Ma Browns Cookies & More	2		
Mechdyne Corporation	25		

Interested in becoming a Chamber member?
Contact Sarah Smith, Vice President to learn more
about our membership options!

(ssmith@marshalltown.org)

To learn more about the Chamber visit
our website at www.marshalltown.org

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**Chamber Bucks are a great way to
THINK LOCAL FIRST!**

If you have Marshalltown area news to brag about, submit it to The Digest via email to office@marshalltown.org or via mail to P.O. Box 1000, Marshalltown, IA 50158. Grand openings, management changes, employee promotions, moves, organization name changes, expansions, accomplishments, awards, and major developments all qualify. Space is limited, so please keep submissions to a maximum of six sentences. Photos should be sent in JPEG format. The editor reserves the right to determine what is included. All information in this section is supplied by Chamber member businesses and organizations; it is not an endorsement by the Chamber.



Board of Directors

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Tourism Director

Kate Bowermaster

Workforce Development Director

Alex Ferneau

Marshall County Economic
Development Director

Brittany Sichra

Event & Tourism Coordinator

Jenna Dooley

Administrative Assistant

Taylor's Maid-Rite makes it to New York

Sandy Short, owner of Taylor's Maid-Rite, and George Motz, owner of Hamburger America, are pictured right, cooking up a maid-rite in New York at Hamburger America using a hamburger trowel compliments of MARSHALLTOWN Company. Motz contacted Short to bring the iconic loose meat sandwich to New York and be a part of the showcase.

George Motz is a well-traveled chef, author, award-winning filmmaker and photographer. He recently opened Hamburger America where he features a new special "burger" on the menu each month and April 10-May 31 the maid-rite was featured.

Sandy and her daughter Sarah set off to New York where Sandy had a press conference where she got to explain the famous maid-rite sandwich, make a TikTok video, and spend some time behind the counter with George Motz.



Marshalltown Students Sign Letters of Intent to Pursue Local Skilled Trades Apprenticeships

On April 22, students from Marshalltown High School (MHS) signed letters of intent to pursue local skilled trades apprenticeships. The declarations occurred during a special ceremony known as 'Signing Day' at Build My Future in Des Moines hosted by Iowa Skilled Trades.

During the ceremony, Marshalltown students joined their new schools or employers to declare their commitment to beginning a skilled trades apprenticeship after graduation this spring: Isaac Chavarria - Construction Management and Welding Apprenticeships at Marshalltown Community College (MCC), Jack Mason - Construction Technology Apprenticeship at MCC, Josue Zamora - Powerline Technician Apprenticeship at Alliant Energy.





Congrats!

Jerrold W. Leffler, President and CEO of **Farmers Savings Bank**, announced that Andrea Jordan has been designated Assistant Vice President with Farmers Savings Bank.

Andrea is the bank's expert on anything related to consumer real estate lending: conventional loans, government loans, home equity loans and home equity lines of credit. What she enjoys most about her role is helping and educating her customers through the entire homebuying process. Andrea's 28 years of lending experience, and a total of 37 years of banking experience, along with her dedication to continuing education and her commitment to providing a smooth and enjoyable experience for her customers are what make Andrea truly an expert in her field and a leader at Farmers Savings Bank.



Mary Holland, Vice President/Retail Banking at **United Bank & Trust** announces her upcoming retirement on June 6, 2025.

Holland is one of six employees who started United Bank & Trust as a de novo bank in 2002. Her career, however, began over 40 years earlier as a teacher before entering the banking industry 3 years later. As she reflects on her banking career, she shared, "Banking has been a rewarding and challenging career and has offered many opportunities for learning and growth. I've truly enjoyed building relationships with customers over the years and helping clients with financial services. I will miss the interactions and relationships with customers and coworkers."

"Mary has been a long-standing, highly respected member of the bank and banking community and will be missed by many. Her dedication to customer service is unmatched in the industry, and United Bank & Trust has been fortunate to have her as a key employee for 23 years. We congratulate Mary on this milestone and wish her the best in retirement," commented Robert Thomas, President of United Bank & Trust.

United Bank & Trust invites you to an open house celebration in honor of Mary's banking career on Friday, June 6, from 11:00am – 1:30 pm at United Bank & Trust, 2101 S. Center Street.

(we just have to *brag a little*)

UnityPoint Health Recognized as 'Top Place to Work in Healthcare' for Fourth Consecutive Year

For the fourth year in a row, UnityPoint Health® has been recognized as one of the top places to work in healthcare in the country by a national industry publication.

Becker's Healthcare named UnityPoint Health one of the "150 Top Places to Work in Healthcare" for 2025. According to Becker's Healthcare, the organizations featured on this list stand out as top-tier employers, devoted to supporting their teams holistically. They offer wellness programs, community involvement opportunities and a culture that values balance and meaningful connection in the workplace.

"What an incredible honor it is to be recognized again as a top place to work in healthcare," said UnityPoint Health Chief Administrative Officer Jessica Meisner. "At the heart of our success is our amazing team members and the incredible work they do every day to take care of our patients and our communities."



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CHAMBER AMBASSADORS VISITS



April 24, 2025 marked a major milestone as the City of Marshalltown, in partnership with the Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce, Fisher Governor Foundation, and Arts + Culture Alliance, broke ground on four transformational projects in the Linn Creek District: The Apgar Family Water Plaza, Ann C. Keyser Trailhead, Emerson Bridge and Martha-Ellen Tye Playhouse.

On April 30, 2025 **MARSHALLTOWN** broke ground on their expansion to headquarters in Marshalltown. This project is multiple phases and will total an additional 170,000 sq. ft. to the Marshalltown facility by early 2027.

Shed Day at United Bank & Trust was a success



254 cars, and 10,500 lbs of paper shredded



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UnityPoint Health – Marshalltown Foundation Humbly Accepts Final MCMS Gift for Education, Upgrades

For all intents and purposes, the Marshall County Medical Society (MCMS) disbanded several years ago, but it seems the outgoing organization had one large, final contribution to make to the future of local health care.

Existing members of the MCMS have decided to donate the remaining funds, which total \$37,000, to the UnityPoint Health – Marshalltown Foundation to help with ongoing education.

The hospital is using about \$4,000 of the donation to upgrade its high-fidelity simulation manikin. The remainder of the money will be used to establish and fund an Educational Unity Grant program.

“We’re so grateful about this generous gift and the good it will undoubtedly bring,” says Clinical Educator Jill Stufflebeam, RN. “Supporting the grants and upgrading the manikin enhances our training and allows our team to provide the best care possible.”



April 2025 Business After Hours at
Adriana's Agency 2

127th Chamber Annual Banquet

The Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce hosts the 127th Annual Banquet on June 12th at Midnight Gardens. The event will include cocktail hour from 5:00 to 6:00 PM, dinner beginning at 6:00 PM, annual report, and keynote address from Ilana Preuss.

Ilana Preuss is the Founder of Recast City LLC, and author of Recast Your City: How to Save Your Downtown with Small-Scale Manufacturing. Preuss’ consulting firm works with local leaders, real estate developers, city and other civic leaders to integrate space for small-scale producers into redevelopment projects and place-based economic development through its premier program, Recast Leaders. She is passionate about making great places and sees that small-scale manufacturers are a missing piece in today’s real estate and economic development efforts.

Platinum Sponsor: Emerson

Gold Sponsor: Alerus Financial Corporation, Gregg Young Automotive Group, ImOn Communications, MARSHALLTOWN, Pinnacle Bank

Silver Sponsor: Karl Auto Group, McFarland Clinic, United Bank & Trust

Program Sponsor: Farmers Savings Bank

Cost is \$80/person or table of 8 for \$700. Registration online at www.marshalltown.org/annual-banquet.



May 2025 Caffeinated Conversations hosted by the
Marshalltown Elks Lodge #312 & Heart of Iowa Big Brothers Big Sisters

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Why Marshalltown: Summer Workforce Program

Wednesday, May 28th

Lunch & Learn at the Orpheum Black Box Theater 11:30 – 1pm

Guest Speaker is Malia Gudenkauf

Confident Money Moves: From Budgeting to Smart Investing

Wednesday, June 18th

Marshalltown Scavenger Hunt 1-4pm

Wednesday, July 9th

Cocktails & Mocktails at Wayward Social Gutter Point 4 – 5:30pm

Why Marshalltown is a summer workforce program designed to connect interns and any newcomers with everything our community has to offer beyond the workplace. Register and learn more online at

www.marshalltown.org/why-marshalltown.

Why Marshalltown is sponsored: **Alerus, Emerson, and MARSHALLTOWN Company**

www.marshalltown.org Statistics

	April '25	Avg/Month	YTD Total
Unique Visitors	10,025	9,233	36,931
Number of Visits	39,659	25,256	101,025
Page Views	218,827	162,639	650,554
Hits	603,159	483,044	1,932,176

The Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce's website traffic is strong. The website includes information about the Chamber's departments: government affairs/advocacy, economic development, education and workforce, membership services, and quality of life and tourism. Be sure to check it for business news, legislative updates, event photos, program information, job postings, and the Community Calendar.

Festival Season is in full swing

The Marshalltown area is brimming with 20+ festivals|fiestas from April – October. From the 3,000+ at Sabado de Gloria, held at the Central Iowa Fairgrounds, to the 103rd Annual Gladbrook Corn Carnival Celebration, there is a festival or two happening almost every week.

Meet in Marshalltown, along with the Arts + Culture Alliance's "takeART Marshalltown" initiative, have teamed up to officially declare April to October "Fiesta Season" in the Marshalltown Area. Our focus is to help elevate and celebrate the most unique blend of festivals in Iowa.

Here is June's Fiesta Schedule:

June 6th -7th Albion Rail-Trail Days

June 12th – 15th 103rd Gladbrook Corn Carnival Celebration

June 13th – 14th Conrad's Black Dirt Days

June 20th-22nd – 67th Iowa's Rose Festival (State Center)

For a full list of the upcoming festivals go to www.meetinmarshalltown.com

Meet in Marshalltown's Social Media:

Instagram: Meet in Marshalltown

Facebook: Meet in Marshalltown or Nos Vemos en Marshalltown

Sign up for 'This Week in Marshalltown' weekly events newsletter

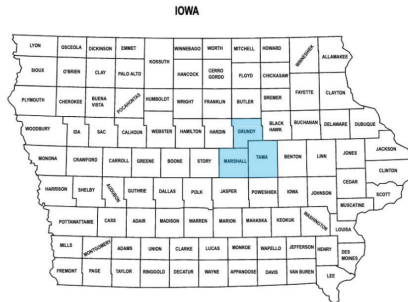
Don't miss out on upcoming community events! Sign up for the weekly event email newsletter "This Week in Marshalltown" and receive a listing of upcoming events via email each Monday. To sign up for the newsletter contact the Chamber office at office@marshalltown.org.



The Main Event is the official branding for Marshalltown's comprehensive downtown streetscape redesign. This multi-year, community-led transformation will make our downtown more accessible, more attractive, and more connected for everyone. The Main Event project is divided into three major phases over two years to minimize disruption and keep downtown accessible. Stay up to date on all things reconstruction at www.marshalltown.org/main-event.

20+ Festivals in 2025

Sábado de Gloria • Cinco de Mayo • Albion Rail-Trail • Red, White & Blue Celebration • Central Iowa Fair • Meskwaki Powwow • Water Festival • Mid-Iowa Antique Power Show • Bee Ridiculous Days • Iowa's Rose Festival • Black Dirt Days • Marshalltown Pride • Mousehole Days • Grundy Co. Fair • Garwin Freedom Days • Harvest Market • Oktoberfest • Tama County Fair • Francis Fest



Chamber Chat

every Sunday morning
6:30 a.m. on 92.9 KDAO FM
7:30 a.m. on 1190 KDAO AM

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Leadership Marshalltown continued..

“I’m so proud to have been part of this class. Getting to know each of you, learning from your experiences, having you help me with my own, and watching us grow as a collective has been an absolute privilege. As someone who’s always been proud to call Marshalltown home (okay, maybe not so much in high school — but definitely now!), I can say that I am even prouder now because of all of you. Each of you is striving for better, even when you were already incredible to begin with,” Samantha Vance said.



“I’ve gained an appreciation for the hard work and dedication many of our leaders around town have and promote. It gives me hope that the upcoming generations in Marshalltown will also see the amazing things current and upcoming leaders in Marshalltown are doing. My aspiration for the future is that my generation and those after me will take pride in our home and continue to “engage new voices”, “raise the heat”, and “experiment beyond our comfort zones” to make Marshalltown the best place possible for everyone,” said Sarah Gerstandt. “As we continue after this class is done, I am excited, hopeful and energized. I personally look forward to raising the heat, taking risks, energizing others and most of all – holding to purpose by being intentional with those around me, at work and in my personal life. I still have a long way to go to be where I want to be, but I’m on my way.”

Pete Drury concluded by talking about his childhood memories of places like Skatetown, Aladdin’s Castle, the McDonalds drive through (now United Bank & Trust) as well as Godfather’s Pizza (now Pizza Ranch). In reference to leadership, he then talked about his time as a coach and used a stopwatch analogy. When kids run up to him and ask, “What’s my time, Coach?!” the response to them and to all of us is, “Your time is now!”

Registration for the 2025-2026 Leadership Marshalltown class is now open! Visit www.marshalltown.org/leadership-marshalltown for more information or contact Chamber Workforce Development Director, Kate Bowermaster (kbowermaster@marshalltown.org).



Leadership Marshalltown class celebrated arts, culture and community pride during the March class session at the Marshalltown Arts & Civic Center (MACC). The class experienced a tour of the MACC, listened to a panel discussion about community pride, learned about the downtown reconstruction project and the Arts + Culture Alliance provided the class a tour of Marshalltown’s public art scene.



Leadership Marshalltown class was held at the Marshall County Courthouse in April. The class experienced the ins and outs of the courthouse on an informative historical tour! The class also heard from a panel of experts on entrepreneurship and participated in peer consultation. The peer consultation process goal is for the case presenter to share a leadership challenge while their peers open up alternative versions of reality and new approaches to leadership to the presenter.



Economic Statistics

Employment – Marshall County - March	2025	2024
(Source: Iowa Workforce Development)		
Labor force	20,220	17,510
Unemployed	1,570	1,420
Percent unemployed	7.8	8.1
Total employment	18,650	16,090
Marshall County Construction - March	2025	2024
(Source: Marshalltown Building Department)		
Building permits	14	8
New Residential Construction	\$0	\$0
Residential Addition/Remodeling	\$168,180	\$35,299
New Commercial/Industrial Const.	\$0	\$1,156,861
Commercial/Industrial Remodeling	\$8,519,319	\$2,429
Housing Sales Data - March	2025	2024
(Source: Mid-Iowa Regional Board of Realtors)		
Single family home sales	26	20
Median sale price	\$166,200	\$152,500

Upcoming Chamber Events

June 10 - 7:30 - 9:00 AM

Caffeinated Conversations at **Karl of Marshalltown**

June 12 - 5:00 PM

127th Chamber Annual Banquet at Midnight Garden

Register online at www.marshalltown.org/annual-banquet

June 18 - 4:30 - 7:00 PM

Business After Hours hosted by **Live on Stage Marshalltown**
at Midnight Garden

June 29 - 5:00 PM

Farm to Table Dinner

Register online at www.marshalltown.org/farmtotable

For more information on these Chamber events visit our
website at www.marshalltown.org/chamber-events



Lance Horbach
Agent



Marna Mitchell-Butler
Agent-CSA



Ryan Larmore
Agent



Pat Hageman
Agent



Paul Beals
Agent



Tyler Slagle
Agent



Mark Rohde
Agent



Rich Mohon
Agent



Heather Hanus
Agent-CSA



Jeni Chavarria
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Bonnie Ohrt
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Carla Nordstrom
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