

theDIGEST

May 2026

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MARSHALLTOWN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Economic Outlook Breakfast was a success!

Business and community leaders gathered on April 15th at Midnight Garden for the Economic Outlook Breakfast, an annual event focused on the trends, challenges, and opportunities shaping the year ahead.

The morning began with a light breakfast and networking before attendees heard from Debi Durham, Director of the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) and the Iowa Finance Authority (IFA). Chamber President and CEO John Hall joined Durham on stage for a conversation that further explored what drives economic success at the local level. When asked about trends among thriving communities, Durham pointed to intentional investment in people and place. She highlighted the importance of creating vibrant communities where individuals want to live and work, alongside efforts to support entrepreneurs and retain existing businesses. Durham delivered an in-depth presentation on the state of Iowa's economy heading into 2025, highlighting both areas of strength and opportunities for continued growth.

Durham emphasized that a healthy economy is built from many interconnected pieces, including workforce development, housing availability, business innovation, and strong community partnerships. She noted that communities seeing the most success are those taking a proactive, collaborative approach—aligning local leaders, businesses, and organizations around shared goals. Thank you to our sponsors!

Presenting Sponsors: **Alliant Energy** and **ITC Midwest**

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Marshalltown, IA 50158

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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.

iSPACE Environments

Bridget Rasmusson, Strategic Partnerships
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ispaceenvironments.com

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iSpace Environments is a 100% employee owned partner delivering integrated furniture, technology, and architectural solutions. We streamline every step of the process through connection, care, and expertise. Based in Des Moines, Iowa, we proudly serve communities across the entire state. Our primary manufacturing partner is Teknion, supported by more than 250 additional furniture lines to meet a wide range of project needs.



In April the Leadership Marshalltown class participants had the opportunity to step inside one of our community's manufacturers, Lennox Industries!

During the tour, class members gained a behind-the-scenes look at the innovation, precision, and teamwork that go into producing industry-leading heating and cooling systems. Experiences like this give participants a deeper understanding of the businesses that drive our local economy and provide valuable career opportunities in our region.

A big thank you to Lennox Industries for opening their doors and sharing their expertise! The participants even got to apply a Lennox logo on a furnace!



Thank You Reinvesting Chamber Members

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

Altar Media	3	Martha-Ellen Tye Foundation	25
Ameritax / Hamilton Tax Solutions	1	Meskwaki Bingo Casino Hotel	3
Ann's Alterations	11	NextEra Energy Resources	1
Brian's Collision Clinic	12	Northwestern Mutual Financial - Berry & Leth	37
BrownWinick	2	Rachel Palmer with Sweetbay Travel Concierge	3
Dank's Lazer Engraving	11	Simms Construction	14
GNB Bank	14	SNT Trucking & Warehouse	14
H & R Block	19	Super Shine Car Wash	16
Happily Ever Crafted-In Stitches	11	Theisen's Home-Farm-Auto	26
Hardon's, Inc.	7	T-Mobile	3
Ma Browns Cookies & More	3	Vaughn's Pub	22
Marshall County ISU Ext.	33		
Marshalltown Sewing Center	34		

Job Posting

Did you know that included with your membership you can post jobs to the Chamber website for free? Posting jobs with the Chamber is simple, email office@marshalltown.org for a template. Job postings are available for the public and members to view on our website, www.marshalltown.org under the Work in Marshalltown tab.



MEET IN
MARSHALLTOWN

Celebrating
2 years with
the Chamber!

Brittany Sichra
Event & Tourism
Coordinator

MARSHALLTOWN
AREA CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE





In March we hosted “Let’s Build Marshall County”, an IEDA community presentation for Marshall County residents. We had two events, one in the morning and one in the evening where Jim Engle, Iowa Downtown Resource Center Director and Jim Thompson, Downtown Economic Development Specialist with the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) discussed the ten essentials for small town downtowns and they showed real examples in Marshall County. Then during the day Marshall County Economic Development Director Alex Ferneau and the IEDA visited the communities of State Center, Rhodes, Melbourne, Haverhill, Albion, Le Grand, and Gilman for a downtown walk around visit.



Chamber Bucks FAQ

How do I purchase Chamber Bucks?

Chamber Bucks can be purchased at the Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce office located at 34 W. Main Street.

Chamber Bucks come in \$5, \$10, and \$25 increments. We accept cash, check, or credit card for payment. Need to place a large order? You can pre-order Chamber Bucks by contacting the Chamber office (office@marshalltown.org or 641-753-6645).

Where can I use my Chamber Bucks?

Chamber Bucks can be used at most businesses or organizations that are a member of the Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce. In addition to redeeming Chamber Bucks at retail locations, you can use them to pay a utility bill or donate to a local charity/non-profit! Contact our office for an updated copy of the Chamber Bucks Redemption list.

How do I use my Chamber Bucks?

Chamber Bucks are treated like cash. Simply hand the Chamber Bucks over to the business or organization that you are redeeming them and that’s it!

I am a Chamber member business/organization.

How do I accept Chamber Bucks?

All Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce members can accept Chamber Bucks just like they would cash/check.

1. If the payment is more than the amount of the bill, simply give the customer change.
2. Be sure to stamp or otherwise clearly endorse the back of the check so that your organization name is clearly visible.
3. Deposit Chamber Bucks checks along with other checks and cash in your normal bank deposit. The full amount of the Chamber Bucks check will be credited to your account.

It’s that simple!

Don’t see your question answered here? Contact the Chamber Office for more information.

(office@marshalltown.org or 641-753-6645)

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



MARSHALLTOWN
AREA CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE



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 Damon Morrison, Treasurer
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Kate Bowermaster
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Alex Ferneau
 Marshall County Economic
 Development Director
Jake Buchanan
 Tama County Economic
 Development Director
Brittany Sichra
 Event & Tourism Coordinator
Jenna Dooley
 Administrative Assistant

Marshalltown RAGBRAI

All Wheels Welcome - July 22, 2026

Visit www.marshalltownragbrai.com for more information!

The Chamber office is located at 34 W. Main Street in downtown Marshalltown.

Please remit payment to:
 P.O. Box 1000, Marshalltown

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www.marshalltownlaw.com

If you have Marshalltown area news to brag about, submit it to The Digest via email to office@marshalltown.org. 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.

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Other Services: Share Draft (checking), Safety Deposit Box Rental, Direct Deposit of payroll, Reoccurring payments, On-line Banking, E-Statements, Mobile Banking, On-line bill payment, VISA Gift Cards, Debit Cards, Money Orders, Wire Transfers, ATM at Lennox Industries, Notary Public, Drive-Up Window (2 lanes), UPS Overnight Service, Education Scholarship Programs, Photocopy services, Family Membership



(we just have to *brag a little*)

Congrats!

UnityPoint Health – Marshalltown’s Michelle Stalzer, RN, is the latest recipient of the prestigious DAISY Award.

Stalzer, a nurse on the hospital’s medical/surgical unit and in the emergency department, was selected after a patient in the emergency department submitted a heartfelt note of appreciation of her care. The 18-year-old mentioned in her nomination she was nervous, scared and alone. Despite the anxiety, she says she received the best care possible and highlighted Stalzer’s role.

The DAISY Award is a national program to recognize clinical skills, extraordinary compassion and care exhibited by nurses every day. The award is given monthly to outstanding nurses in more than 2,300 health care facilities, in all 50 states and 15 countries.



Welcome!

Erik Eckhardt has joined the staff of **Farmers Savings Bank** in Marshalltown as a Trust Officer. Erik is working alongside Norm Bach, Executive Vice President & Trust Officer in the FSB Trust Department. FSB’s Trust Department’s services are tailored to fit the needs of clients by assisting with handling trust, estates, investment management agencies & IRAs as they help guide clients through life decisions. Erik will be focused on estate probate, trust & agency administration and IRAs. Erik’s prior experience and expertise will ensure that clients continue to receive the same high level of professional service. Erik is a lifelong Central Iowan, growing up in State Center, then moving back to the area with his wife, Ashley, to raise their family. He can often be found at one of his 3 boys’ athletic events or at the nearest golf course.



UnityPoint Health’s State Center Clinic Fully Reopens After Renovation

UnityPoint Health Family Medicine – State Center has fully reopened following an extensive remodeling project that began in the fall of 2025.

The renovations included updates to the clinic’s roof and windows to enhance safety and energy efficiency, along with a complete interior remodel.

Inside the clinic, exam rooms were expanded, digital X-ray services were added and the lab space was upgraded. In addition, the floorplan, nurses’ station, restrooms and flooring were redesigned to significantly improve the patient experience.

“We’re very happy to finally and fully reopen the State Center clinic and welcome our patients back into an updated space,” says Carolyn Barko, Vice President of Operations for UnityPoint Clinic – Waterloo and Interim President for the UnityPoint Health – Waterloo market. “Providing an excellent patient experience is always our top priority, and we’re excited to share these improvements with the communities we serve.

New and existing patients are encouraged to call and schedule a primary care appointment at (641) 844-2970.



Chamber Chat - Sundays

6:30 a.m. on 92.9 KDAO FM

7:30 a.m. on 1190 KDAO AM



CHAMBER AMBASSADORS VISITS



On March 28th we celebrated **Kate Berry - Northwestern Mutual!** Kate celebrated the grand opening of her business with a ribbon cutting and open house event at her office located at 14 E. Main Street. Kate recently stepped into the role of successor advisor to Jeff Krough and Gordon Leth in the Marshalltown office. Upon their retirement, Kate will continue serving Northwestern Mutual clients and maintaining a local presence.



On March 28th we celebrated **Lucy's Dive Bar (207 East Main Street)!** Lucy's just celebrated one year in business and opened their lower level bar, La Cueva!



On April 1st **Tyler Peschong - State Farm Insurance** celebrated 1 year in their new office located at 2110 S. Center Street! We helped celebrate the milestone with a ribbon cutting!

CIACA

Central Iowa Capital Advisors



Gary Schaudt

25 S. Center Street
Marshalltown, IA

641-752-2041

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Thank you to this incredible group of volunteers: our Chamber Ambassadors!

Each month, the following individuals give their own time to visit Chamber member businesses and organizations to say “thank you”. We’d like to take this opportunity to thank them!

Sarah Bacehowski Doug Beals Cindy Brodin Heidi Drager Amy Feisel Guadalupe Gomez
Pat Gulbranson Joe Hannam Denny Hass Andrea Jordan Julie Lynch Jaymee Mann
Jenny Meling Dan Moellers Kris Naughton Michelle Roseburrough Mary Rund Gary Schaudt
Roger Schoell Andy Schwandt Sandy Short Brittany Titcomb Kevin Vaughn Tom Wahl

To view images from past ribbon cuttings & courtesy calls visit our website at
www.marshalltown.org/ribbon-cuttings-courtesy-calls

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March 2026 Caffeinated Conversations at Child, Adolescent, and Parent Support



April 2026 Caffeinated Conversations at the Binford House




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A message from the ISU Small Business Development Center:

Let's talk about cybersecurity.

Cybersecurity is an important topic for small business owners to learn about and embrace, even when we are convinced that our digital presence is negligible, and we cannot even fathom who would want to take the time to disrupt our "small town Iowa" small business. True, our businesses may not be on the radar of international hackers. Our businesses may, however, be on the radar of a disgruntled employee, dissatisfied client, or the kid down the block, who is honing hacking skills for fun. We may, also, shy away from the topic, because it is "one more thing," in an already overflowing day, week or month. Fortunately, there are resources available to simplify the learning, increase our knowledge about cybersecurity and provide us with some steps for action.

First, let's explore some ways that cyber attacks regularly impact small businesses. For instance, phishing emails can bait unaware business owners and employees to disclose information or respond to requests that are illegitimate. I receive phishing emails regularly! My favorite is a friend asking me to purchase gift cards. Or, we may unknowingly click on a link that looks official, only to discover that the link unleashed a ransomware attack on our system and has locked us out until payment has been made.

Once we have determined that cyber risk is real, now what do we do? NIST has created a website dedicated to small business cybersecurity issues. NIST has even developed a quick start guide which provides a clear path for small businesses owners who are ready to implement some cybersecurity measures. All NIST information and videos can be found here: www.nist.gov/itl/smallbusinesscyber Iowa SBDC, also, offers a series of on demand cybersecurity webinars. Find those videos here: iowasbdc.org/services-ondemandtraining

One final thought...make a date with your insurance agent and learn about the cybersecurity coverage that your business insurance policy may or may not offer. The information may be helpful as you explore what a cybersecurity plan for your business should look like.

ISU SBDC is here to work with you. Our services are without cost and confidential. How can we help? Let's get a conversation going. We can be reached through a click or a call. The fastest method to connect with us is to visit iowasbdc.org, select the request counseling button, complete the electronic form and choose Iowa State as your center of choice. Call us at 515-296-7828 or, ask a Chamber official how to reach us and they will point you in our direction.

Enjoy today-Sheri Benson, CBA, CGBP, ISU SBDC business counselor



Community Shred Day was held on Saturday, April 11th. The event was hosted by United Bank & Trust and they partnered with the Marshall County Landfill and the Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce. The event provides a service that helps protect against fraud and identity theft while keeping paper out of our landfills.



www.marshalltown.org Statistics

	March '26	Avg/Month	YTD Total
Unique Visitors	14,698	15,162	45,487
Number of Visits	27,676	26,773	80,320
Page Views	216,652	202,638	607,914
Hits	694,196	679,130	2,037,389

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.

Fun for Fireworks

Marshalltown's 3rd Annual Red, White, & Blue Celebration is quickly approaching from July 2nd to 4th. But the fun begins in early May with 2 great fundraising events.

Cinco de Mayo Tacos & Tequila Event

An evening designed to elevate your palate. You'll enjoy a curated experience featuring a flight of premium tequila expertly paired with gourmet tacos—bringing together bold, unforgettable flavors in every bite and sip.



TACOS & TEQUILA

MAY 5, 2026 | AT 5:00PM

MIDNIGHT GARDEN (1501 S. 17TH AVE)

Elevate your palate. Join us for an evening of exclusive, bold flavors. This consists of a flight of premium tequila paired with gourmet tacos. You don't want to miss this.

\$50 per person



forms.gle/yTfft3tcs9PK3rH78

MARSHALLTOWN'S RED, WHITE & BLUE CELEBRATION

This is a fundraiser for our Red, White & Blue Celebration. All proceeds will go directly to the committee.

The **MIDNIGHT GARDEN**

GATHERING PLACE
EST. 2022

Red, White & Bowl

Join us for a Neon Bowling Night to help fundraise for our Red, White & Blue Celebration! Gather your friends or sign up individually—we'll help create teams for a great night of fun, energy, and a little friendly competition.

These events are fundraisers for our Red, White & Blue Celebration. All proceeds will go directly toward supporting the committee and making our 4th of July event a success.

Questions? Contact Dylan Does, Tourism Director at (641-753 6645 / ddoes@marshalltown.org)



RED, WHITE & BOWL!

MAY 7TH, 2026 | STARTS AT 6:00PM

WAYWARD SOCIAL (1101 S 6TH ST)

Join us for a fun Neon Bowling Night to help fundraise for our Red, White & Blue Celebration!

**\$60 PER PERSON
\$300 PER TEAM**

MARSHALLTOWN'S RED, WHITE & BLUE CELEBRATION



forms.gle/9CMHXFeTpdBEtFj77

Leadership Marshalltown March Class

Leadership Marshalltown was held at the Marshalltown Arts & Civic Center (MACC) on March 26th. The day was all about Arts & Culture plus Community Pride. The class heard from a panel that included: Amber Danielson, Executive Director at the Arts + Culture Alliance; Heidi Dalal, Executive Director for the Martha-Ellen Tye Foundation; Alfonso Medina, Entrepreneur/Owner of La Carreta Mexican Grill; Marco Yepez-Gomez, City Council - 1st Ward. The panel discussed challenges and aspirations for our community within arts, culture, and community pride. The class also got a presentation on Economic Development from Chamber President & CEO John Hall, which included community project updates. To dive into the arts, the class had a tour of the MACC and a public art tour provided by the Arts + Culture Alliance.

Thank you to our Leadership Marshalltown sponsors!

Presenting Sponsor: **MARSHALLTOWN Company**

Silver Sponsors: **A&M Cleaning Services LLC., Emerson, and Iowa Valley Community College District**



Thanks to everyone who joined us for the Welcome Marshalltown Hospitality Training! Welcome Marshalltown is a professional development training curated for front line workers in retail, restaurant, and the hospitality industry. This event was sponsored by Vaughn's Pub!



Thank you to our 2025-2026 Think Local First Sponsors!



Central Iowa Capital Advisors

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MARSHALLTOWN





CHAMBERNEWS

Upcoming Chamber Events

April 28 - 4:30 - 6:30 PM

Business After Hours at **Stahlin Agency, Inc.-State Farm**

April 30 - 4:00 - 7:00 PM

Ladies Night Out

May 7 - 4:00 - 6:00 PM

Business After Hours at **Marshall County Abstract**

May 12 - 7:30 - 9:00 AM

Caffeinated Conversations at **Marshalltown Elks Lodge**
hosted with **Heart of Iowa Big Brothers Big Sisters**

May 14 - 12:00 PM

Women in Business Luncheon

Economic Statistics

Employment – Marshall County - January	2026	2025
(Source: Iowa Workforce Development)		
Labor force	20,140	20,260
Unemployed	1,670	1,780
Percent unemployed	8.3	8.8
Total employment	18,480	18,480

Marshall County Construction - February	2026	2025
(Source: Marshalltown Building Department)		
Building permits	14	8
New Residential Construction	\$0	\$383,480
Residential Addition/Remodeling	\$89,347	\$53,228
New Commercial/Industrial Const.	\$1,609,166	\$2,537,073
Commercial/Industrial Remodeling	\$1,788,701	\$41,074

Housing Sales Data - February	2026	2025
(Source: Mid-Iowa Regional Board of Realtors)		
Single family home sales	22	21
Median sale price	\$126,500	\$129,900



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
Administrative Assistant



Bonnie Ohrt
Processor



Daria Rowley
Agent-CSA



Carla Nordstrom
Agent-CSA



Kristi Carlson
Office Manager



Matt Roelsgard
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