

# theDIGEST

June 2026

Volume 43, Issue 12

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# MARSHALLTOWN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## 2026 Women in Business Luncheon was a success!

On May 14th the Annual Women in Business Luncheon took place at Iowa Valley Business and Community Solutions! Keynote speaker during the luncheon was Lisa Even. Lisa is a nationally recognized keynote speaker, bestselling author of Joy Is My Job, and host of the Have Good Ripple Effect podcast. Lisa has partnered with hundreds of organizations across the country to help teams lead with intentional presence, build trust, and shape a culture that fuels performance.

The event concluded with the 2026 Woman in Business award that was presented to Kara Wildman! Kara is the owner of Happy Tails in Marshalltown (additional details on page 4).

Thank you to all of our 2026 Women in Business Luncheon sponsors!

Presenting Sponsors: **A&M Cleaning Services** and **Emerson**

Gold Sponsors: **Farmers Savings Bank** and **Trending Media**

Location Sponsor: **Iowa Valley Business & Community Solutions**

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## 128th Annual Banquet

The Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce hosts the 128th Annual Banquet on June 18th 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...Andrew Davis!

He is back! Andrew Davis is a bestselling author and internationally acclaimed keynote speaker. Before building and selling a thriving digital marketing agency, Andrew produced for NBC's Today Show, worked for The Muppets in New York and wrote for Charles Kuralt. He's appeared in the New York Times, Forbes, the Wall Street Journal, and on NBC and the BBC. Davis has crafted documentary films and award-winning content for tiny start-ups and Fortune 500 brands. Recognized as one of the industry's "Jaw-Dropping Marketing Speakers," Andrew is a mainstay on global marketing influencer lists. Wherever he goes, Andrew Davis puts his infectious enthusiasm and magnetic speaking style to good use teaching business leaders how to grow their businesses, transform their cities, and leave their legacy.

Thursday, June 18

Doors open at 5:00 p.m.

Social Hour is 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Dinner begins at 6:00 p.m.

Keynote presentation follows at 6:30 p.m.

Midnight Garden | 1501 S. 17th Avenue

Platinum Sponsor: **Emerson**

Speaker Sponsor: **JBS Swift & Company** and **Mechdyne Corporation**

Gold Sponsor: **Gregg Young Automotive Group** and **MARSHALLTOWN**

Silver Sponsor: **A&M Cleaning Services, Alerus, Iowa Valley Community College District, Karl Auto Group, McFarland Clinic, Pinnacle Bank, United Bank & Trust**

Program Sponsor: **Farmers Savings Bank**

Cost is \$80/person or table of 8 for \$620. Register online at [www.marshalltown.org/annual-banquet](http://www.marshalltown.org/annual-banquet).

### 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](mailto:office@marshalltown.org) for a template. Job postings are available for the public and members to view on our website, [www.marshalltown.org](http://www.marshalltown.org) under the Work in Marshalltown tab.

## Thank You Reinvesting Chamber Members

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

Ace Precision International	14	Mechdyne Corporation	26
Assistance League	9	Moler Sanitation	14
Beane, Dr. Joel	29	Nikkel & Associates, Inc.	22
<b>Blissful Expressions</b>	<b>5</b>	Old Timer Tavern	14
Bolton and Menk Inc.	7	Pilgrim Heights	
Cash Homes Midwest LLC	1	Camp & Retreat Center	19
Dairy Queen, Center Street	23	<b>Pinnacle Bank</b>	<b>30</b>
David Blom	2	Prairie Waste Solutions	21
Ethington Heating & Cooling	33	Ric Anderson	6
First Congregational Church	22	Rock Island Inn & Suites	51
Freedom Financial	8	ServiceMaster by Rice	7
Garling Construction	6	Shoe Sensation	11
Great Western Dining	11	Sign Creations	26
GW, LLC.	2	Superior Rentals	14
Jennifer Weaver at Law	3	The Appliance Doctor	1
Jim Bell Flooring	14	Tom Apgar	2
Marshalltown Community Theatre	28	Willows, The	9
		Woodruff Construction	9



Celebrating  
1 year with the  
Chamber!

CONGRATS!

**Alex Ferneau**  
Marshall County Economic  
Development Director



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The Chamber office is located at 34 W. Main Street in downtown Marshalltown.  
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If you have Marshalltown area news to brag about, submit it to The Digest via email to [office@marshalltown.org](mailto: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.

## Kara Wildman receives 2026 Woman in Business Award



Kara Wildman owner of Happy Tails in Marshalltown, was presented the 2026 Woman in Business Award during the Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce Women in Business Luncheon held at Iowa Valley Business & Community Solutions DeJardin Hall on May 14.

Presenting Kara with the award was Stella and Jonas Wildman, Kara's children. It was a very special moment as they surprised Kara with the honor of 2026 Woman in Business. Happy Tails officially opened in 2004 located in a strip mall and Stella talked about growing up in the business and having a front row seat to all that her mother has built today. Happy Tails is now a 6,144 square foot building where happy clients and even happier dogs visit every single day. Stella and Jonas both lauded Kara's hard work and dedication to being a business owner and great mom.

## Marshalltown RAGBRAI

All Wheels Welcome - July 22, 2026

Visit [www.marshalltownragbrai.com](http://www.marshalltownragbrai.com) for more information!



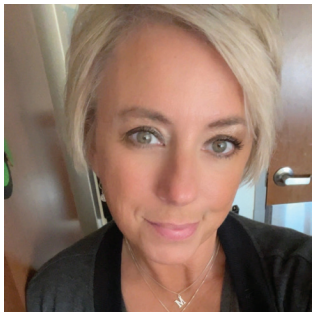
(we just have to *brag a little*)

## Suncrest Home Health & Hospice Welcomes Staff to the Marshalltown Service Area

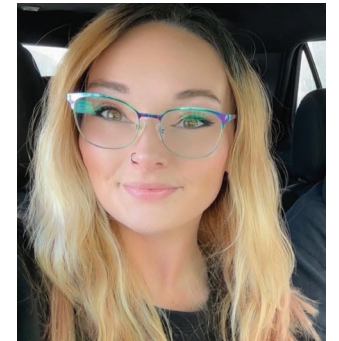
"What I love most about being a hospice nurse is the autonomy, flexibility, and meaningful one-on-one time I get to spend with patients and their families. I value building relationships, partnering with local facilities, and collaborating with other nurses to provide the best care possible. The nurses at Suncrest are incredibly supportive, and we truly work together as a team. Hospice allows me to care for the body, mind, and spirit while bringing comfort, dignity, and even smiles to my patients during some of life's hardest moments. It is an honor to walk alongside patients and families and make a difference in such a personal way." -Candace Poppe, RN Case Manager



"With two decades of dedicated service as CNA, I have worked in all types of healthcare environments, including long-term care facilities, acute hospital units, and home health settings. This extensive background provides me with a comprehensive understanding of patient needs at every stage of wellness and decline. This transition into hospice was inspired by witnessing my own mother's end-of-life journey, which instilled in me a deep commitment to high-quality, compassionate service. It's truly an honor to provide comfort to families and patients during their time of need." -Tonya Grefe, Certified Nursing Assistant



"I love my job with Suncrest Hospice because I get to grow amazing bonds with my patients and their families, learn about their individual lives, and provide compassionate care they deserve." - Miranda Wilson, Certified Nursing Assistant



"I love being a hospice nurse because I get to support families during such a heavy and emotional time. It feels meaningful to be there for them when they need it most. It's also important



to me to support my patient directly by spending one-on-one time with them to address their symptoms and make them as comfortable as possible. I enjoy working with local facilities and their staff, building strong connections and better supporting them. At Suncrest, I have an amazing team that supports and guides me, so I can do my best to care for my patient, their families, and facilities."

-Kenley Goodnight, RN Case Manager

## OnTheGoMedia Expands Footprint with Management, Programming of KDAO

OnTheGoMedia is proud to announce a new strategic partnership with KDAO, officially assuming full management and programming responsibilities for the station group effective May 1, 2026. This transition marks a significant milestone in OnTheGoMedia's commitment to delivering high-quality local content and innovative broadcasting and advertising solutions across North Central, and now Central Iowa.

As OnTheGoMedia steps into this new chapter, we do so with the utmost respect for the path paved by the late Mark Osmundson. An Iowa Broadcast Hall of Famer, Mark was more than just a station owner; he was a champion for the Marshalltown business community and a broadcasting innovator. "Mark Osmundson didn't just run a radio station; he built a legacy that spanned nearly half a century," said OnTheGoMedia President, Shawn Dietz. "Following his passing last year, we feel a deep responsibility to uphold the high standards of service and integrity that were the hallmarks of Mark's storied career. We are honored to carry his torch forward."

OnTheGoMedia, Inc. is a locally owned and operated media company based in Hampton, Iowa, specializing in radio broadcasting, print media, digital content, and advertising solutions. With a deep commitment to community service, OnTheGoMedia strives to connect and engage audiences through quality programming and local support.

## YOUR OFFICIAL KICKOFF TO SUMMER

CELEBRATE THE GRAND OPENING OF THE

## Apgar Family Water Plaza

Saturday, June 6th | 11:00 AM



The Grand Opening will feature cultural performances, food trucks and fun for all! The Apgar Family Water Plaza is free admission and located next to Mega-10 Park. Handicap parking will be available at Mega-10; Event parking available underneath the viaduct near the Aquatic Center and at the 6th St Softball Complex.



# CHAMBER AMBASSADORS VISITS



On April 28th the Chamber Ambassadors helped celebrate new business **Stahlin Agency - State Farm** (8 E. Southridge Rd.) with a ribbon cutting! Stahlin Agency-State Farm is locally owned by Tyler Stahlin. This trusted State Farm agency is committed to providing exceptional customer service while helping individuals, families, and businesses protect and grow their assets.

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 **MARSHALLTOWN**

## UnityPoint Health – Marshalltown Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehabilitation Earns Statewide Recognition

UnityPoint Health – Marshalltown is proud to announce its cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation department has been named the Distinguished Program of the Year by the Iowa Association of Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation (IACPR).

Each year, the IACPR acknowledges an Iowa program that’s made significant contributions in the industry. Marshalltown’s rehab program consists of regional manager Aleshia Bloker, RN, Ashley Bonney, RN, and Stephanie Mitchell, RN, and the group officially received the recognition and a plaque at an awards ceremony in Des Moines last week.

The recognition is well deserved. Since transitioning to the new hospital in 2022, the department has achieved a net increase of more than 500 patient visits annually, while prioritizing patient autonomy, safety and evidence-based care.



### Central Iowa Capital Advisors



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Marshalltown will soon welcome thousands of cyclists for RAG-BRAI, and we have a simple opportunity to show hospitality! Local organizers are looking for residents willing to host riders for one night by offering space in their yard for a tent, access to a restroom, and shelter in severe weather. Most riders arrive in the afternoon and leave early the next morning. It’s an easy way to live out “All Wheels Welcome” and extend kindness to those passing through our community. To sign up, visit: Sign up online: [www.marshalltownragbrai.com/plan-your-stay](http://www.marshalltownragbrai.com/plan-your-stay)

To view images from past ribbon cuttings & courtesy calls visit our website at [www.marshalltown.org/ribbon-cuttings-courtesy-calls](http://www.marshalltown.org/ribbon-cuttings-courtesy-calls)



**April 2026 Business After Hours at the Stahlin Agency-State Farm**



**May 2026 Caffeinated Conversations hosted by the Marshalltown Elks Lodge & Heart of Iowa Big Brothers Big Sisters**



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## A message from the ISU Small Business Development Center:

We all recognize that as a small business owner we consider our business an extension of our self. Staff is extended family; customers are dear friends; and our community is home. No wonder letting go can be so difficult and painful when we think about leaving it behind.

Did you know that the number one reason that a business fails to transfer in the United States is because the seller gets cold feet? More importantly is why this happens. It happens because the owner(seller) has not developed a plan for life after business. It, also, happens when an owner needs a particular sale amount for the business, but has not been preparing the business to reflect that value at the time of sale. These topics are a lot to think about. Businessowners will find the most satisfaction with exiting their business, if they have begun to consider and plan for a future outside of business.

From a personal perspective, begin contemplating what you will do once you exit this business. Is it golf every day, volunteering, moving to a vacation destination, starting another business? Include the key people in your life in conversations about the next chapter. Hire a financial planner, with whom you are comfortable sharing your intimate financial dreams and current financial position. Most business owners have 80% of their wealth wrapped up in their business. Begin exploring how you will put that wealth to work for you, once you and the business part.

Then, take some time to work on your business and prepare it to be the best it can be when you are ready to sell. What will you be selling? How much is the business worth? How do you know? How much of your business is tangible versus intangible? Should you consider upgrading hard assets? Is the inventory fresh? What is the real value of blue sky? Do you have contracts in place for repeat orders? Is there a business without you? Who will buy your business? These are great questions to wrangle with your business leadership, your accountant and commercial banker.

Exiting a business is a deeply emotional endeavor. Begin exploring the topic of business exiting in the years before you are ready to leave your business. Doing so will allow you to be more informed and prepared with regard to options presented to you when you actually do exit.

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](http://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*



### May 2026 Business After Hours at Marshall County Abstract Company



### [www.marshaltown.org](http://www.marshaltown.org) Statistics

	April '26	Avg/Month	YTD Total
Unique Visitors	18,255	15,936	63,742
Number of Visits	39,676	29,999	119,996
Page Views	277,354	221,317	885,268
Hits	805,323	710,678	2,842,712

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.

## The Red, White, & You Celebration!

The 4th of July will be brimming with celebration and opportunities for you to get involved! Do you want to enter the parade? Do you want to get a morning run or 5k in?

Start your 4th of July with movement, energy, and community!

- Saturday, July 4th
- Gather at 7:30am. Run starts at 8:00am
- Starting line is in front of Lillie Mae Chocolates (209 North 13th St.)
- This event is free and open to the public.
- Two routes for preferred distance; One fun day!

Join us for a fun Red, White & Blue morning run/walk. Whether you're in it for a quick, casual stroll or ready to go the distance, we've got two route options so everyone can join the fun!

Bring your friends, your family, your coworkers; the more, the merrier!

We are excited for the Red, White & Blue Celebration 2026 Parade on July 4th!

The route will start on the Iowa Veterans Home grounds and make its way onto the 13th Street District. If you would like to participate, use the QR Code to sign up. Cost is \$25.

These events are put on by the Red, White & Blue Celebration committee. Questions? Contact Dylan Does, Tourism Director at (641-753 6645 – [ddoes@marshalltown.org](mailto:ddoes@marshalltown.org))



# RUN

## SATURDAY JULY 4TH

Two routes for preferred distance;  
One fun day.



**Start 8 AM**  
at Lillie Mae Chocolates  
209 N 13th St, Marshalltown, IA 50158

<https://forms.gle/1p4ucnb7PpirCGrg8>  
**FREE ENTRY  
RSVP NEEDED**

# 4th of July Parade



Sign-Up



**July 4, 10:30 AM**  
Parade starts at Iowa Vets Home

## 57th Annual Scholastic Banquet

On Wednesday, May 6th the Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce hosted the 57th Annual Scholastic Banquet at the Elmwood Country Club. 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.

Students and their families gathered for a meal, keynote address, and recognition. This year's keynote address was provided by Chris Buck, West Marshall graduate and owner of Clover Bloom Farms. Buck talked about his path and his altering understanding of success, though it had ups and downs, he was ultimately led back to the county to do what he loves!

Principals from each respective school announced the students one by one to receive their certificate of achievement from Chamber Vice President, Sarah Smith. The 2026 honorees are listed right.

This event would not have been possible without the help of our sponsors. Thank you to all of the 57th Annual Scholastic Banquet sponsors!

Presenting Sponsor: **Lennox Industries**

Gold Sponsors: **A&M Cleaning Services, Ace Precision International, Gregg Young Automotive Group, and M. Gervich & Sons.**

Silver Sponsors: **Marshalltown Community College, MARSHALLTOWN Company, Raymon Enterprises.**

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Student Sponsors: **Bowman & Miller, P.C., McGregors Furniture & Mattress, Smokin' G's BBQ, Restaurant and Catering, Taylor's Maid-Rite**

### *East Marshall High School:*

Kaden Good  
Blake Neuroth  
Cody Weaver

Anessa Morrison  
Kade Randall  
Giovani Rios Castaneda  
Zariah Safley  
Thaw Soe

### *Green Mountain-Garwin High School:*

Rhianna Murty  
Joss Warnell

Jayden Tran  
Averie Thill  
Brooke Van Hoozer  
Zoe Weidenaar  
Julia Williams  
Harper Wilson

### *Marshalltown High School:*

Lilyia Christen  
Denise Covarrubias Andrade  
Emerson Eastman  
Quinn Eastman  
Myles Goldman  
Kenzo Hang  
Jorja Janssen

### *West Marshall High School:*

Jordan Hilleman  
Mari Kriegel  
Rachel Daisy Randall  
Riley Jeanne Randall



## Upcoming Chamber Events

*June 16 - 7:30 - 9:00 AM*

Caffeinated Conversations at **Karl of Marshalltown**

*June 18 - 5:00 PM*

**128th Chamber Annual Banquet**

Register online at [www.marshalltown.org/annual-banquet](http://www.marshalltown.org/annual-banquet)

*June 25 - 4:30 - 6:00 PM*

Business After Hours at the Arts + Culture Alliance hosted  
with **Live on Stage Marshalltown**

**Chamber Bucks are available year-round and make great gifts!**

To order call or email

**641-753-6645/office@marshalltown.org**

## Economic Statistics

Employment – Marshall County - February	2026	2025
(Source: Iowa Workforce Development)		
Labor force	20,150	20,100
Unemployed	1,560	1,590
Percent unemployed	7	7.9
Total employment	18,690	18,480

Marshall County Construction - March	2026	2025
(Source: Marshalltown Building Department)		
Building permits	12	14
New Residential Construction	\$461,255	\$0
Residential Addition/Remodeling	\$167,147	\$168,180
New Commercial/Industrial Const.	\$0	\$0
Commercial/Industrial Remodeling	\$451,660	\$8,519,319

Housing Sales Data - March	2026	2025
(Source: Mid-Iowa Regional Board of Realtors)		
Single family home sales	30	26
Median sale price	\$165,000	\$166,200



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Agent



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Agent-CSA



Ryan Larmore  
Agent



Pat Hageman  
Agent



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Tyler Slagle  
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