

the**DIGEST**

July 2026

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MARSHALLTOWN  
AREA CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE

# 128th Chamber Annual Banquet was a success!

On June 18, 2026 the Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce held the 128th Chamber Annual Banquet at Midnight Garden. This evening was a time of celebrating another year of progress and development in the community.

The keynote address was provided by Andrew Davis. Davis presented the Cube of Creativity: Why adding constraints sparks innovation, action, & builds business. Our participants walked away ready to apply intelligent constraints to their creative work. Following the keynote was the awards ceremony. See awardees on page 11.

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Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce  
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# Why Marshalltown Summer Series

The Why Marshalltown Summer Series has kicked off! Why Marshalltown is a summer workforce program designed to connect interns and any newcomers with everything our community has to offer beyond the workplace.

We began with hosting a Lunch & Learn at the Orpheum Black Box on May 28th! We had Elisabeth Bieber with Edward Jones join us for a financial presentation and Chamber Tourism Director Dylan Does talked to attendees on all things Marshalltown!

On June 16th we hosted the Why Marshalltown Scavenger Hunt! We were excited to partner with local businesses and attractions to show off Marshalltown during the scavenger hunt! Thank you to everyone who helped make the Scavenger Hunt a success!

Scavenger Hunt locations: Taylor's Maid-Rite, Marshalltown Public Library, Marshalltown YMCA YWCA, Marshalltown Arts & Civic Center, Wayward Social, McFarland Clinic, La Carreta Mexican Grill, Wandering Creek Golf Course, Grimes Farm & Conservation Center, Iowa Veterans Home, Lillie Mae Chocolates, Arts + Culture Alliance, Groundedtown, and Stepping Stones Christian Bookstore!

The Why Marshalltown series is sponsored by Emerson and MARSHALLTOWN Company.



## Save the Date!

### Chamber Ambassadors Golf Outing

#### August 7, 2026

The Chamber invites you to join the Chamber Ambassadors Golf Outing. This annual event that allows members a fun day of networking, business development, and golf. The outing is an excellent opportunity to market your business/organization as well as treat a client or potential client to a great day of golf in a relaxed atmosphere. The Chamber Ambassadors Golf Outing is a shotgun start at 10:00 a.m. at Elmwood Country Club. The event is presented by Emerson!

Cost to participate is \$600/foursome. Cost includes golf, cart, lunch, and 1 pink tee, 2 mulligans and 10 door prize entries per golfer. Sponsorships available, contact Chamber Vice President, Sarah Smith (ssmith@marshalltown.org)

Visit [www.marshalltown.org/golf-outing](http://www.marshalltown.org/golf-outing) for more information and to register a team.

## Thank You Reinvesting Chamber Members

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

|                           |           |                             |    |
|---------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|----|
| Arnold Motor Supply       | 33        | Heart of Iowa Ventures, LLC | 3  |
| Bantz Chiropractic Center | 16        | Journey Church              | 28 |
| Central Iowa Farm Store   | 28        | Manatts, Inc.               | 9  |
| <b>Dairy Queen,</b>       |           | Redeemer Lutheran Church    | 7  |
| <b>North 3rd Avenue</b>   | <b>10</b> | Rube's Steakhouse & Lounge  | 12 |
| Glenwood Place            |           |                             |    |
| Retirement Community      | 27        |                             |    |

## 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.

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|                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Savings</b>         | Regular Share Savings, Kirby Kangaroo Club, Small Paws Savings, Christmas Club, Share Certificates.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Programs:</b>       | Money Market Share Account, IRA Accounts                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Lending:</b>        | Consumer Loans, Auto, Personal, Share Secured, Certificate Secured, Master Card Credit Card, Visa Credit Card (Classic), Open End Revolving, Student Loan Programs, Real Estate, Home Equity, Home Equity Line of Credit (HELOC)                                                                                                                                                                      |
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## Riverside Cemetery

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## Chamber Chat

every Sunday morning

**6:30 a.m. on 92.9 KDAO FM**

**7:30 a.m. on 1190 KDAO AM**

## MARSHALLTOWN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



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Marshall County Economic

Development Director

#### **Jake Buchanan**

Tama County Economic

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#### **Brittany Sichra**

Event & Tourism Coordinator

#### **Jenna Dooley**

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

Please remit payment to:  
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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.

## UnityPoint Health – Marshalltown Wound Healing Center Named Center of Distinction

The wound healing center at UnityPoint Health – Marshalltown has been awarded the prestigious Center of Distinction and the Clinical Excellence awards by Healogics®, which is the nation's largest provider of advanced wound care services.

The center earned the Center of Distinction honor after achieving outstanding clinical outcomes for 12 consecutive months, including a patient satisfaction rate higher than 92%.

The other honor – the Robert A. Warriner II, MD, Clinical Excellence Award – comes on the heels of the Marshalltown clinic scoring in the top 10% of eligible Healogics centers for comprehensive healing rate.

“We continue to be extremely proud of the high standard of care we provide at our Marshalltown wound clinic,” says Tia Bacon, Clinical Program Director. “These awards are a testament to the commitment and excellence shown by every person on our team. Thanks to that dedication, people in our community can find elite wound care close to home.”

As a member of the Healogics network of approximately 600 centers, the wound center in Marshalltown offers highly specialized wound care to patients suffering from slow healing wounds, diabetic foot ulcers, pressure ulcers, infections and other chronic wounds.

The team's wound care experts provide advanced modalities including negative pressure wound therapy, total contact casting, bio-engineered tissues, biosynthetic dressings and growth factor therapies. UnityPoint Health – Marshalltown also offers hyperbaric oxygen therapy, which works by surrounding the patient with 100% oxygen to accelerate wound healing.



## 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*)

## Jason Rechkemmer Named Chief Executive Officer of Woodruff Construction

**Woodruff Construction** is pleased to announce the promotion of Jason Rechkemmer from Chief Operating Officer to Chief Executive Officer. Rechkemmer assumes the role following years of dedicated leadership and a strong commitment to the company's values, people, and continued growth.

"Going on 30 years working with Jason, I have observed his growth, his commitment to striving towards perfection through excellence," said company President Don Woodruff. "His passion for improving himself, as well as those around him, continues to increase. He lives and breathes our core values. His dedication to safety, efficiency and planning has been amplified in each of our 5 statewide regional locations."

As CEO, Rechkemmer said he is committed to preserving these values, strengthening our employee-ownership culture, and continuing to serve our clients and communities.

"I am grateful to accept the position of Chief Executive Officer of our employee-owned company that has been my professional home for the past 30 years," said Rechkemmer. "This organization is more than a business. It is a family built on trust, shared ownership, and a commitment to serving others. For three decades, I have had the privilege of growing alongside this organization, learning from dedicated teammates, and serving clients who place their confidence in us every day. Our focus has always been simple and enduring: to provide an enjoyable, high-quality experience for our clients while creating a workplace where teammates feel valued, empowered, and proud of the work they do."

## BrownWinick Celebrates 75 Years of Serving Iowa Businesses

**BrownWinick** is marking its 75th anniversary with the launch of a year-long campaign. The firm is celebrating its legacy of guiding business owners through pivotal moments and its continued commitment to the future of Iowa's business community.

The theme of this anniversary is: Pivotal Moments. Practical Partners. 75 Years Strong. Founded in 1951, BrownWinick has grown alongside the businesses it serves, evolving from a small local practice into a trusted legal and strategic partner for organizations across the region. Over the past seven and a half decades, the firm has played a role in some of the most significant decisions facing its clients, including ownership transitions, high-stakes negotiations, and long-term growth and succession planning.

Chamber Chat - Sundays  
6:30 a.m. on 92.9 KDAO FM  
7:30 a.m. on 1190 KDAO AM

## Congrats!

**United Bank & Trust** congratulates President Robert Thomas on his upcoming retirement after a remarkable 44-year banking career, including the past 10 years at United Bank & Trust. His commitment to relationship banking and community service has helped shape the Bank's success.

Throughout his career, Thomas has remained committed to relationship-focused banking, noting that while much has changed in the industry over the years, the importance of building trust and strong customer relationships has never changed.

While retiring from his role as President, Thomas will remain actively involved as a member of the United Bank & Trust Board of Directors, where he will continue to share his experience and provide strategic guidance for the Bank's future.

A retirement open house honoring Robert will be held on Thursday, July 23, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at United Bank & Trust, 2101 S. Center St., Marshalltown.

United Bank & Trust is pleased to welcome Lance Lansing as its next President following the upcoming retirement of Robert Thomas later this year. Lansing brings community banking and financial services experience and will work closely with Thomas over the coming months to ensure a smooth leadership transition.

Most recently serving as Vice President of Commercial Lending at Apple River State Bank, Lansing is recognized for his commitment to relationship-based banking and community engagement. He looks forward to building on United Bank & Trust's strong legacy of serving Marshalltown customers, businesses, and families.





# CHAMBER AMBASSADORS VISITS



On June 6th we celebrated the grand opening of the Apgar Family Water Plaza! The Apgar Family Water Plaza is an exciting new addition to Marshalltown's recreational and cultural landscape! Located next to Mega-10 Park, this vibrant, family-friendly space—designed with Iowa artist Hilde DeBruyne—features playful, “skipping stone”-inspired water elements that create a one-of-a-kind experience for all ages.

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## Applications Now Open for the 2026-2027 Leadership Marshalltown Program!

Leadership Marshalltown is a 9-month course that introduces a leadership framework for individual development, organizational success, and community progress. Up to 30 individuals are selected to represent a cross section of the community and bring diverse strengths to the team.

Tuition for 2026/2027 is \$1,000 per person, which includes 90 contact hours, 10 days, all materials, and meals. Sponsorship by an employer or organization is encouraged but not required. Partial scholarships may be available for individuals who are not funded by an agency or business.

Questions? Contact Kate Bowermaster, Workforce Development Director, [kbowermaster@marshalltown.org](mailto:kbowermaster@marshalltown.org).

Complete the application to participate online. Application deadline is July 31, 2026. Opening retreat is September 17 & 18.

[www.marshalltown.org/leadership-marshalltown](http://www.marshalltown.org/leadership-marshalltown)

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

**If you would like to schedule a visit with the Chamber Ambassadors contact Vice President Sarah Smith.  
[ssmith@marshalltown.org/641-753-6645](mailto:ssmith@marshalltown.org)**



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[www.marshalltown.org/ribbon-cuttings-courtesy-calls](http://www.marshalltown.org/ribbon-cuttings-courtesy-calls)**

## Leadership Marshalltown 2025-2026 Class Graduates!

Congratulations to the 2025-2026 Leadership Marshalltown class! Class concluded on May 21, 2026 with a graduation ceremony. The Leadership Marshalltown program is a 9-month long leadership and community awareness initiative that introduces class members to various community issues, programs, businesses, resources, and events, while also incorporating the Kansas Leadership Center's leadership framework to develop the individuals as leaders both inside the business and out.

Photo Courtesy of the Times-Republican. Back Row: Christian McMurray-teaching team (United Bank & Trust), Lucian Banakeng (JBS), Kiel Stevenson (Marshalltown Police Department), Katherine Mummert (Marshalltown Community School District), Clayton Ender (City of Marshalltown), Patrick Streit (Moore, McKibben, Goodman & Lorenz, LLP), Tim Klinge (Emerson), Hunter Barnard (SportsPlus), Myles Mitchell (A&M Cleaning Services LLC), Alexa Mitchell (A&M Cleaning Services LLC)

Middle Row: Heidi Dalal-teaching team (Martha-Ellen Tye Foundation), Cortney Horbach (MARSHALLTOWN), Jessica Veren (VGM-Forbin), Jaymee Mann (MARSHALLTOWN), Lisa See (ServiceMaster of Marshalltown), Kya Naughton (ServiceMaster of Marshalltown), Brittany Fisher (Emerson), Bethany Jablonski (Emerson), Jordyn Terry

(Marshalltown Community School District), Neil Dalal (Emerson), Ben LaConner (Marshalltown Community School District), Pete Drury-teaching team (Iowa Valley Community College District)

Front Row: Kate Bowermaster-teaching team (Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce), Dani Garth (Marshalltown Community College), Whitney Sowers (Marshalltown Community College), Nicole Kelley (Marshalltown YMCA), Kate Jarvis (Emerson), Sandra Alcala (McFarland Clinic), Maria Vargas-Gonzalez (Marshall County Auditor/Recorder), Blair Ulery-Paxton (Pro Trade LLC), Josh Grosvenor-teaching team (Emerson)

Not Pictured: Misty Bunn (Pinnacle), Angie Polley (Farmers Savings Bank)

Leadership Marshalltown is a program of the Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce put on in partnership with the Kansas Leadership Center, Martha-Ellen Tye Foundation, Iowa Valley Community College District, Marshalltown Community School District, Emerson, and United Bank & Trust. The 2025-2026 Leadership Marshalltown program is sponsored by MARSHALLTOWN Company, Emerson, Iowa Valley Community College District, and A&M Cleaning Services LLC.



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

Customers are faced with an abundance of choice to meet their needs in today's marketplace. Just like business owners they are, also moving through an ever-changing marketplace and have become more conscious about how they spend their dollars. We may not be able change the economic cycle, but we can manage customer experience.

If the business has a customer relationship management (CRM) system, this is a great time to see what the data is saying. Information to consider includes customer frequency, purchasing preferences, average sale. This data can help the business focus marketing efforts toward opportunities to encourage more customers and sales similar to those already occurring. If the business does not have or utilize a CRM system, it may be time to learn more about a CRM system and how it could help the business.

Next, understanding the business's unique customer information can be very helpful in retaining existing customers. For instance, perhaps we notice that a once regular customer is absent and a look at the CRM verifies the observation. The data probably doesn't say why. Why is helpful! A customer retention strategy to reach out to the client or clients for feedback would help. The change in use may be due to a previous poor experience, lack of product availability or simply a change in need on the part of the client. Armed with information we know whether effort should be spent reengaging the customer or developing a new one.

Finally, we should explore methods to keep our business top of the customer's mind. We could pursue free publicity, volunteer for activities that are meaningful to us, schedule an open house and invite, invite, invite. We could offer coupons or discounts for return visits, ask a customer what they like about our business, ask the customer about complimentary products that they would consider.

No doubt, many of us have already incorporated these ideas or similar ones into our business practices. And, if you are like me, when the business is humming I become lax with the customer focused activities. No worries! We can begin again!

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*



## June 2026 Caffeinated Conversations at Karl Auto Group of Marshalltown



## www.marshalltown.org Statistics

|                  | May '26 | Avg/Month | YTD Total |
|------------------|---------|-----------|-----------|
| Unique Visitors  | 23,758  | 17,500    | 87,500    |
| Number of Visits | 44,737  | 32,947    | 164,733   |
| Page Views       | 317,901 | 240,634   | 1,203,169 |
| Hits             | 833,243 | 735,191   | 3,675,955 |

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.

## Marshalltown's Story Goes National....Twice

Beginning with Marshalltown Community College's ascent to one of the strongest 2-year Collegiate Esports programs in the nation, Marshalltown has sought to create its place in the esports world. MCC has hit 30 National Championships. MCC's program, both competitive and Esports Management degree, has exploded to almost 100 strong. Marshalltown just wrapped up its 3rd year of hosting the IAHSEA (High School) State Championships. MHS just attained its first-ever State Championship in May, beating Linn Mar to secure the Mario Kart title. Mechdyne, with its ground-breaking tech ingenuity, has been a strong hands-on supporter. All of these factors have produced a one-of-a-kind hometown esports culture.

In June, the national (and a bit of Canada) stage invited us to share the Marshalltown story with the National Association of Esports Coaches and Directors (NAECAD) at their national conference held at the University of Akron. We were also invited to be 1 of 3 "Esports Success" stories, along with Peoria, IL, and Waco, TX, at the North America Esports Travel Summit in Cincinnati, OH.

During the NAECAD National Conference, Dr. Andrew Goforth (Director of Esports, Iowa Valley Community College District), Nate Rode-meyer (MCC Head Coach), and Dylan Does (Tourism Director) all took part in different presentations sharing different aspects of what is being built in Marshalltown. The highlight of the conference was Nate Rode-meyer being named the NAECAD National Collegiate Coach of the Year. Marshalltown will host NAECAD's National Conference in 2027.

The North American Esports Travel Summit was an equally incredible experience. We loved how the conference organizers put our story: ***You don't need a professional sports arena, a massive convention center, or a seven-figure budget to win in esports. In Marshalltown, Iowa, a forward-thinking Chamber of Commerce/ Tourism Department saw opportunity where others saw limitations — and built one of the Midwest's most compelling grassroots esports ecosystems. By activating existing venues, aligning civic leadership, and partnering with local corporate stakeholders and a community college, Marshalltown has po-***

*sitioned itself as a go-to hub for scholastic, high school, and collegiate esports. In this session, hear from leaders of the effort and learn what your community can do to make the most of your local assets.*



### 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](mailto:office@marshalltown.org).

## 128th Chamber Annual Banquet Awards



*2026 Community Impact Award*  
**Tom Apgar and the Apgar Family**

Tom stands with Chamber President & CEO John Hall, Arts + Culture Alliance Executive Director Amber Danielson, and Chamber Board Chair Zach Stahl. Tom Apgar and the Apgar family were recognized for their contributions toward the new Linn Creek District projects, specifically the Apgar Family Water Plaza. In 2008, the Chamber established the Community Impact Award "to recognize a business, organization, or individual for their contributions to shaping and changing the landscape of the community."



*2026 Rising Leader Award*  
**Pete Drury**

**Iowa Valley Community College District**

Pete stands with Chamber Workforce Development Director Kate Bowermaster and Chamber Board Chair Zach Stahl. In 2025, the Chamber established the Rising Leader Award. This "honors an emerging leader in our community who demonstrates exceptional promise, innovation, and dedication to making the Marshalltown area a better place to live, work, learn, and grow." Pete has demonstrated leadership across our region, both in his personal and professional life.



*2026 Tourism Champion Award*  
**Marshalltown YMCA-YWCA**

Left: Chamber Event & Tourism Coordinator Brittany Sichra and Chamber Board Chair Zach Stahl stand with representatives of the Marshalltown YMCA-YWCA. In 2025, the Chamber established the Tourism Champion Award. This is "dedicated to the organization or individual who promotes, supports, and helps grow Marshalltown as a destination." The Marshalltown YMCA-YWCA embodies what it means to be a Tourism Champion. We are lucky to have them as such a great community asset!



# CHAMBERNEWS

## Upcoming Chamber Events

July 14 - 4:00 - 6:00 PM

Business After Hours at  
**MEMBERS1st Community Credit Union**

July 21 - 7:30 - 9:00 AM

Caffeinated Conversations at Taylor's Maid-Rite

August 7 - 10:00 AM

**Chamber Ambassadors Golf Outing**  
Register online at [www.marshalltown.org/golf-outing](http://www.marshalltown.org/golf-outing)

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 - March | 2026   | 2025   |
|--------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| (Source: Iowa Workforce Development) |        |        |
| Labor force                          | 20,100 | 20,20  |
| Unemployed                           | 1,410  | 1,570  |
| Percent unemployed                   | 7      | 7.8    |
| Total employment                     | 18,690 | 18,650 |

| Marshall County Construction - April       | 2026      | 2025      |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| (Source: Marshalltown Building Department) |           |           |
| Building permits                           | 14        | 18        |
| New Residential Construction               | \$0       | \$381,020 |
| Residential Addition/Remodeling            | \$118,224 | \$112,745 |
| New Commercial/Industrial Const.           | \$257,380 | \$389,177 |
| Commercial/Industrial Remodeling           | \$451,660 | \$231,424 |

| Housing Sales Data - April                    | 2026      | 2025      |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| (Source: Mid-Iowa Regional Board of Realtors) |           |           |
| Single family home sales                      | 36        | 34        |
| Median sale price                             | \$156,250 | \$145,500 |



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



Scott Simpson  
Agent-CSA



Carla Nordstrom  
Agent-CSA



Kristi Carlson  
Office Manager



Matt Roelsgard  
Information Systems



Denice Vega  
Agent-CSA



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