Another topic, water quality, has been fueled by the lawsuit filed by the Des Moines Waterworks against three counties in Iowa for allegedly not controlling nitrate runoff by agricultural interests. The estimated costs of improving water quality throughout the state run anywhere from $4-6 billion, essentially equal to an entire year’s operating budget. There are very strong philosophical divides on where the burden of that cost should be placed.

Regardless of your view on the noted services, most can agree that education, medical care, and clean water are emotionally charged topics. Out of 150 legislators, there are at least 150 differing views on conquering the challenging issues of our day. It promises be an interesting session.

Although nothing is certain, it is unlikely that there will be movement on a number of issues monitored by the Partnership team at the Partnership is keeping its eye on a number of issues at the state level. There are certainly tensions between some members of the legislature and the executive branch over a couple of items that may prove to be challenging.

The first is a veto last summer by Governor Branstad of $55 million worth of supplemental education funding approved in the final hours of the 2015 session.

The second is an overhaul (led by the executive branch) of the state’s Medicaid system and the conversion of management to private companies.

We are also unlikely to see an adjustment to Iowa’s minimum wage law - something several members are watching closely.

Although the Partnership’s government relations team monitors a number of issues, it is important that you engage in the legislative process. There are two great opportunities for you to take part in the month of February. The Chambers of Commerce in Southeast Iowa lead a regional messaging event in Des Moines called Great River Region Days. This year, the event will be on February 9 and 10 with a cost of $125. Although the room block has expired, you still have a couple of days to register (contact me directly) if you would like to join us. There will be a number of good topics discussed which you might find interesting, along with a reception including the Lt. Governor as a special guest.

In addition, the next Eggs & Issues event is on February 20 at 7:30 AM in the Partnership offices. This event has a very relaxed atmosphere (jeans are perfectly acceptable!) and provides you with an opportunity to listen to and ask questions of our three area legislators. Even if you aren’t comfortable asking a question, just coming to listen can help you learn much about the lawmaking process. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Belinda Colwell.

Finally, the full policy and position statements of your Chamber of Commerce are listed on the Partnership’s website. Just click the button on the homepage for the complete list.
The Board of Directors for the Economic Development Division of the Partnership (also known as Grow Greater Burlington) is responsible for overseeing progress towards the mission of adding and retaining jobs, enhancing the tax base, attracting private capital investment to the community and continuously improving the business climate throughout Des Moines County.

An important role of the Board of Directors has been guiding the development of Flint Ridge Business Park and four shell buildings. The organization’s ownership of this shovel-ready land and speculative development of shell buildings have created numerous opportunities to attract new investment in Des Moines County, including companies like Alfagomma, Borghi and Cobo. Flint Ridge Business Park also proved to be a key factor in attracting Silgan Containers Manufacturing Corporation, whose $100+ million investment in building a 400,000+ square foot state of the art manufacturing facility will create 120 high paying jobs.

Funding for the Economic Development Division comes from the Southeast Iowa Regional Riverboat Commission as well as investments from a multi-year pledge campaign. Members of the Board of Directors are elected by the companies and individuals who’ve invested in the Partnering for the Future II five year strategy.

Left to Right: Steve Shupp, Alliant Energy; Dan Gifford, City of West Burlington; Gary Hoyer, Great River Entertainment; Michael Ash, Southeastern Community College; John Manley, Winegard Company; Jerry Krause, Farmers & Merchants Bank & Trust and Charles L. Walsh, Farmers & Merchants Bank & Trust

Not Pictured: Matt Shinn, Two Rivers Bank & Trust; Mark Richardson, Great River Medical Center; Donna Mann, Mann’s McDonalds; Craig Upton, KPI Concepts; Jerry Sherwood, The Sherwood Company; Ken Reif, Valley Distribution; Steve Titus, Iowa Wesleyan College; Ron Massner, SG Construction; Jim Leiting, Big River Resources; Tom Broeker, Des Moines County Supervisor and Shane McCampbell, City of Burlington.
The Greater Burlington Partnership is pleased to announce that Kristi Ray, a seasoned veteran of the Chamber of Commerce industry, joined the Partnership team in January. Kristi is in charge of a number of initiatives including new member recruitment, sponsorship sales, and government relations, as well as a number of events in Downtown Burlington. She will also spearhead the annual business plan competition.

“I am pleased to have Kristi join our team,” said Jason Hutcheson. “Her personality is a good fit for our office, and I think our members will appreciate the experiences she brings from other communities.”

“I am very excited to join the Partnership,” said Kristi. “I am so impressed with the accomplishments of the volunteers, leadership team and the staff. It will be a true honor to work for this 5-star accredited organization.”

During her career, Kristi has served in a number of roles including Executive Vice President of the Columbia, Missouri Chamber of Commerce, Director of Chamber Relations for the statewide Missouri Chamber of Commerce, and also as the President of Chambers of Commerce in both Cedar Falls, Iowa and Kirksville, Missouri.

MEET KRISTI

AREA ATTRACTIONS FEATURED ON TELEVISION

The Convention & Visitors Bureau recently worked with an Iowa film company producing a television series on travel in Iowa titled Iowa Journeys. Greater Burlington’s episode features many of the local hot spots including Snake Alley, Crapo Park, Uptown Ivy, PZAZZ! Entertainment Complex, Port of Burlington, and many other community attractions. The episode first debuted January 24 and will air again on February 21. Check your local listings for air times.

Iowa Journeys will air in the following networks:
- KCAU-TV(ABC) Sioux City
- KGCW-TV (CW) Quad Cities
- KCRG 9.2(ABC) Cedar Rapids/Waterloo
- TV-17 (Outdoors) Chicago
- WOI-TV(ABC) Des Moines
- KIMT-TV(CBS) Mason City/Albert Lee/Austin/Rochester

EGGS & ISSUES
February 20, 7:30 AM
$5 Breakfast and Legislative Insight. Breakfast is ready at 7:15 AM
RSVP to Belinda Colwell by February 19.

Top Issues:
Workforce, Transportation, Economic Development and Education

Who’s Invited:
Eggs & Issues is a benefit of membership, and we encourage all members to attend.

Mark Your Calendars:
March 19 and April 16 7:30 AM @ Greater Burlington Partnership

Sponsored by
Governor Terry Branstad and Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds congratulated Des Moines County on becoming the 27th in the state to be designated as a Home Base Iowa Community. Home Base Iowa connects transitioning military members and veterans with career opportunities in Iowa companies. To date, members of the Iowa Business Council, Iowa’s largest employers, have hired more than 1,700 employees through Home Base Iowa.

Des Moines County qualified as a center of opportunity for military veterans based on four standards: 10 percent of targeted businesses sign up as a Home Base Iowa company, development of an incentive package for veterans, display of the Home Base Iowa community designation, and obtaining a resolution of support from the appropriate local governing body.

Approximately 30 Des Moines County businesses have pledged to help service members find careers within the community. Incentives for veterans in Des Moines County are numerous from housing assistance to complimentary hotel rooms. If you are interested in becoming a Home Base Iowa business, contact Brenda Levitt.

For more information, visit HomeBaseIowa.gov.

“Our Home Base Iowa initiative won overwhelming bipartisan support in the Legislature, and now communities across Iowa are embracing the program. With continued partnerships between the state, communities and businesses, Iowa will establish itself a premier location for service members leaving the armed forces for a civilian career,” Branstad said.

On January 19 at Great River Medical Center a ceremony was held by Jason Kemp, Home Base Iowa Program Manager declaring Des Moines County as a Home Base Iowa community.
In the middle of winter, you deserve to indulge a bit! Sample a rich variety of delectable treats from 15 tasting locations at the second annual Chocoholic Frolic on February 11, 5 - 7:30 pm in downtown Burlington.

Advance tickets are $10 per person at the Iowa Store and Weird Harold’s available through February 10, or $12 the day of and during the event at the same locations. You can also order tickets online at GreaterBurlington.com. The ticket is your entry for a prize gift basket drawing, to be held at the Des Moines County Heritage Center at the end of the event. They will have a hot cocoa bar on hand and a display of Burlington chocolate manufacturing and confectionery artifacts as well.

For more information, contact Steve Frevert.

Chocoholic Frolic is sponsored by:

15 TASTING LOCATIONS

- Des Moines County Heritage Center
- The Iowa Store
- Capitol Theater
- The Funky Cowgirl
- Tastefully Yours
- Art Center of Burlington
- Red Screen Door
- Gypsy
- The Medium/Weird Harold’s
- Country Friends
- Csky Boutique
- Nature’s Corner
- Uptown Ivy
- Original Cyns
- Burns & Sons Direct Appliances
Lunning Funeral Chapel has been serving families in their time of need in the Burlington/West Burlington area since 1959. Our staff is dedicated to providing the families we are privileged to serve with the very best in accommodating facilities and professional associates who are attentive to the needs of you, your family and friends. We believe every life lived is unique and should be celebrated accordingly. We provide a personalized experience based with dignity, care and understanding in your time of loss.

We specialize in “Celebrations of Life” for those that choose either burial or cremation as their final disposition. We also offer families the ability to plan their funeral services before the time of need. We pride ourselves in the community and are honored to offer a Memorial Tree Planting every fall in area city parks, a Holiday Remembrance Service held in the chapel every December, a grief library and counseling services. We believe in partnering with several area organizations and volunteer services to provide the best care and compassion before, during and after a death.

We invite you to experience the Lunning Funeral Chapel difference.

LunningFuneralChapel.com

The purpose of position statements is to reflect on issues that the Burlington/West Burlington Chamber of Commerce believes are in the best interests of the business community in Greater Burlington and Des Moines County. The statements reflect the opinions of 700 members as measured by the annual “Political Action Agenda Survey,” that are recommended by the Government Relations committee and adopted by the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

View the 2016 PUBLIC POLICY GUIDE at GreaterBurlington.com.
MEET ZACH ORTH
YP OF THE MONTH

Employer: Century 21 Property Professionals
Hometown: Burlington
YP Member: 2 Years

I got involved in the YP program to network with other young aspiring professionals, to better myself and others in both my professions. I have really gotten a lot out of the networking through the socials and Lunch & Learns. Greater Burlington is a wonderful place to live, and YP is a great place to start growing your network.

Fun Fact: “I have always been, and will always be, a die-hard Iowa Hawkeye fan and I go to a majority of games.”

DID YOU KNOW...
Being involved in your community connects you with others, but most importantly are the intangible benefits of pride, satisfaction and accomplishment.

GREATER BURLINGTON YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

6:06 SOCIAL
February 4, 6:06 PM
The Washington

Friends, drinks and a night full of laughter! Come to The Washington at 6:06 PM (*note time change) for a networking social hour and stay for the comedy show starting at 7:30 PM!

Comedians Stephen HaHa Hunt, Tiffany Buehneman and Brian Huggins will put on a great show. Bring an old friend or make a new one.

BIZ TOUR
February 17, 5:05 & 5:30 PM
KPI Concepts

KPI Concepts has recently completed a new expansion and they are excited to show it. There will be two times available for the tours; 5:05 and 5:30. RSVP your time of choice by commenting on the Facebook page or by contacting Chelsea Tolle.

All events are free for Young Professionals members, $15 for non-members. First event is complimentary for prospective members.

GreaterBurlingtonYP.com
BE A VOICE!

For decades, the Chambers of Commerce from Greater Burlington, Fort Madison, Keokuk and Mount Pleasant have led a delegation of local business and community leaders to Iowa’s State Capitol. Many of you have been on this trip, while some of you have thought about attending. Wondering what happens and how you can make an impact?

It is important to understand that your voice is LOUD! Area elected officials count on your input and that’s why on February 9 and 10 you should join other community leaders for the Great River Region Days lobbying trip.

The participation fee is $125 per person and that covers the legislative reception, breakfast with leadership and numerous Q&A sessions.

2016 AGENDA

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

- 11 AM Check in and Registration, State Historical Building, 600 E Locust St. Des Moines
- 11:15 AM Opening Remarks
  - Tina Shaw & Brad Epperly, Iowa Chamber Alliance
  - The 2016 Legislative Season: What You Need to Know
- 12 PM Lunch
- 12:30 PM Break/Walk to Capitol
- 1 PM M-Power U Student Session, Senate Room 116
- 2:40 PM Auditor Mary Mosiman: State of Iowa Budget, Senate Room 116
- 3:30 PM Iowa Workforce Development Director Beth Townsend: Changes to Workforce Programming in Iowa, Senate Room 116
- 4 PM Break/Hotel Check-In

Evening events are at Embassy Suites Des Moines Downtown
Hotel patrons receive complimentary drinks starting at 5:30 pm via the Lounge Bar
- 5 PM Great River Region Days Reception
- 5:15 PM Keynote Speaker: Lieutenant Governor Reynolds
- 7 PM Dinner on Your Own

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Morning events are at Embassy Suites Des Moines Downtown
Hotel patrons receive complimentary breakfast

- 7:30 AM Leadership Breakfast - Caucus Leaders from the House and Senate
- 9 AM Rand Fisher, Iowa Area Development Group - How Rural Communities Can Compete in Economic Development
- 10 AM Transforming the Talent Pipeline – Southeastern Community College and Iowa Wesleyan University
- 11:15 AM Adjournment
  *Invited guests are subject to schedule changes

Note: Free parking for the afternoon sessions is available at the Capitol Complex Parking Structure, entrance at 655 Des Moines St.

For more information or to RSVP contact Brenda Levitt or visit GreaterBurlington.com.
Lanae Greene, Carrie Caruthers, Eva Castillo and Rachel Lindeen brainstorm and collaborate on the group project.

2015-2016 class members problem solve during a teambuilding activity during the opening session.

Representative Tom Sands networks with Rachel Westfall and class members during a luncheon with leaders.

MAKING IT POSSIBLE:  CBIZ, State Farm Insurance - Kent Brown Agency, Big River Resources West Burlington, LLC, Great River Health Systems and Klingner and Associates, PC
MARKETING GREATER BURLINGTON

Each year the Greater Burlington Convention & Visitors Bureau outlines the marketing initiatives that the staff plans to manage and execute. Here is a glimpse of some of the things happening in 2016 to market the Greater Burlington area attractions.

PRINT ADVERTISING

- AAA Living
- Better Homes & Gardens
- Missouri Life
- Nebraska Life
- The Iowan
- Eastern Iowa Visitors Guide
- Iowa Travel Guide
- Midwest Meetings
- Iowa Outdoors

TELEVISION ADVERTISING

- Des Moines Metro
- Quad Cities Metro
- Iowa Journeys

DIGITAL ADVERTISING

- TripAdvisor
- Targeted Ads
- In Banner Video
- Google AdWords

LOCAL PROMOTIONS

- Community Guide
- Tear Maps
- Tourism Tidbits
- Digital Kiosk

SOCIAL MARKETING

VisitBurlingtonIowa.com
BUSINESS AFTER HOURS
River Ridge Dental Care & River Ridge Orthodontics
February 18, 5 - 7 PM

This month River Ridge Dental Care and River Ridge Orthodontics invites Chamber of Commerce members, employees and guests to tour the facility, meet the team, enjoy some appetizers while mingling and enhancing networks.

Meet Us At: 700 N. 3rd Street, Burlington
RiverRidgeDentalCare.com
RiverRidgeOrtho.com
Thank you to the members who have renewed their memberships and provided the resources to accomplish the ongoing goals of the Chamber of Commerce. Those listed in red have made an additional commitment by making a voluntary contribution.
FEBRUARY HAPPENINGS

3 - Jason Marsalis Vibes Quartet
The Washington - 8 PM
thewashingtonmusic.com

4 - YP 6:06 Social
The Washington - 6:06 PM
GreaterBurlingtonYP.com

5 - Appleseed Collective Concert
Starr’s Cave Nature Center - 7:30 PM
dmconservation.com

5 - Autumn’s Waiting
The Washington - 8:30 PM
thewashingtonmusic.com

6 - Mississippi Valley Calling Classic
PZAZZ! Event Center - 8:30 AM
callingclassic.com

6 - Kent Burnside
The Washington - 9 PM
thewashingtonmusic.com

6 - Ice Fishing Clinic
Big Hollow Recreation Area - 10 AM
dmconservation.com

11 - Lunch at the Top
First United Church of Christ - 11 AM
319-754-4807

11 - Chocoholic Frolic
Downtown Burlington - 5 PM
GreaterBurlington.com

11 - Owl Prowl
Starr’s Cave Nature Center - 7 PM
dmconservation.com

12 - The Brandon Gibbs Band
The Washington - 9 PM
thewashingtonmusic.com

13 - Close to You: The Music of the Carpenters Concert
Capitol Theater - 8 PM
burlingtoncapitoltheater.com

13 - Celtic Nights - Spirit of Freedom
Memorial Auditorium - 7:30 PM
bma-live.com

13 - Bonne Finken and The Collective, Aaron Lotzow
The Washington - 9 PM
thewashingtonmusic.com

14 - Southeast Iowa Symphony Orchestra Winter Classic
Capitol Theater - 3 PM
burlingtoncapitoltheater.com

16 - ServSafe Food Safety Training
Great Prairie AEA - 9 AM
extension.iastate.edu/desmoines

17 - YP Biz Tour
KPI Concepts - 5:05 & 5:30 PM
GreaterBurlingtonYP.com

18 - Business After Hours
River Ridge Dental Care and River Ridge Orthodontics - 5 PM
GreaterBurlington.com

19 - 28 - The Glass Menagerie
Players Workshop - Varies
playersworkshoptheater.com

20 - Eggs & Issues
Greater Burlington Partnership - 7 AM - GreaterBurlington.com

27 - Burlington Home Show
PZAZZ! Event Center - 10 AM
thepzazz.com

27 - The Vagina Monologues
Capitol Theater - 7 PM
burlingtoncapitoltheater.com

FIND EVENT DETAILS:
GreaterBurlington.com

MARCH

14 - 5th Grade Career Fair
Southeastern Community College

15 - 8th Grade Career Fair
Southeastern Community College

19 - Eggs & Issues
Greater Burlington Partnership

31 - Business After Hours
Deery Brothers

Sample some delicious chocolate treats at Chocoholic Frolic!

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**Business Spotlight**

**Save the Date for the Shamrock Shuffle**

Burlington Kiwanis is excited to announce the return of the Shamrock Shuffle. The 5K run/walk will take place on Saturday, March 12 at 10 am in Crapo Park. Again this year, the Shamrock Shuffle will be a color run, and participants will enjoy the festive course as they run through bursts of color.

All proceeds from the event will be used for area children’s programs. If you would like to help support the Shamrock Shuffle through sponsorships, contact Dominique Cornick at dcornick@advanced-homehealthcare.com or 319-753-6270.

For more information, visit burlingtonkiwanis.com, Like “Burlington Shamrock Shuffle” on Facebook or email burlingtonshamrockshuffle@gmail.com.

**Klingner & Associates, P.C. Opens Office in Pella**

Klingner & Associates, P.C. a Quincy-based Engineering/Architectural/Land Surveying firm in their 110th year of service, announced in December the official opening of a staffed branch office, located downtown in The Molengracht District in Pella Iowa.

Klingner offers a wide range of multi-disciplined engineering services, architectural and land surveying services in the tristate area. Professional services are provided to meet the needs of individuals, industrial and commercial businesses, municipalities, primary and higher educational facilities and governmental agencies.

For more information and other office locations, visit klingner.com.

**Players Workshop, The Glass Menagerie**

Players Workshop, your community theater in Burlington, is very happy to announce the casting of our next performance, The Glass Menagerie by Tennessee Williams.

In the role of Amanda, the overbearing mother, is Peggy Ell. The shy, handicapped daughter, Laura, will be played by JoJo Johnson. Amanda’s son, Tom, who feels trapped because of family needs, is being played by Wade O’Neal. The friend of Tom’s from the factory, Jim, is being played by Thomas Savage.

Directors are Steve Poling and Jim Beres. The Glass Menagerie runs from February 19 - 28 at the Players Workshop at 1431 Grove Street in Burlington. For more information, visit us on Facebook, Twitter or at playersworkshoptheater.com.

**Save the Date: God’s Portion Day**

Mark your calendars now for the 37th annual God’s Portion Day on March 6. There will be a Silent Auction, Raffle, Balloon Bust, Kids’ Activities and Live Auction with food and drink throughout the day. Co-Chairs Kim Korschgen, Trisha Lake and Theresa Thielen have some exciting additions and plans for Notre Dame’s biggest fundraiser of the year. We welcome everyone to get involved by donating their time, an item or just coming.

If you have questions, contact Val Giannettino at val.giannettino@bnotredame.org.

**Live at Players Workshop, The Glass Menagerie**

**Klingner & Associates, P.C. Opens Office in Pella**

Klingner & Associates, P.C. a Quincy-based Engineering/Architectural/Land Surveying firm in their 110th year of service, announced in December the official opening of a staffed branch office, located downtown in The Molengracht District in Pella Iowa.

Klingner’s corporate headquarters is located in Quincy, Illinois, with other branch offices in Hannibal, Missouri, Burlington, Iowa, and Galesburg, Illinois.

Klingner offers a wide range of multi-disciplined engineering services, architectural and land surveying services in the tristate area. Professional services are provided to meet the needs of individuals, industrial and commercial businesses, municipalities, primary and higher educational facilities and governmental agencies.

For more information and other office locations, visit klingner.com.
2015 YEAR IN REVIEW

The Partnership’s Annual Report and Economic Scorecard are in the mail to Chamber of Commerce main contacts.

The print edition was released during the Annual Dinner celebration and mailed to the full membership the first week in February. The annual report features quantifiable objectives for each of the four Partnership divisions and well as facts about the organization.

In addition, the economic scorecard highlights numerous statistics regarding the local economy.

Although there is a cost to producing, printing and mailing the booklet, it is important that the organization be held accountable to its members, investors and stakeholders.

We encourage you to share the publication with your employees and display in your waiting rooms.

If you are not the primary contact for your business, you may view the digital version online at GreaterBurlington.com.