

The

OCTOBER 2020

GREATER BURLINGTON PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER VOL. 100 NO. 10

PARTNERSHIP





GET OUT AND VOTE

by Della Schmidt

Election Day is Tuesday, November 3. Are you ready to vote? Every election is important, and this year is no different. While significant focus is on the 2020 Presidential election, it is important for Greater Burlington residents to engage with the local races as well. The leaders that are elected to local and state positions will end up making decisions that will impact the business environment and will affect the everyday life of Greater Burlington citizens. Taxes, jobs, healthcare, safety, local economy, and community infrastructure are all impacted by locally elected officials.

Check out local election information in this edition of *The Partnership*. Visit the website at GreaterBurlington.com to view Candidate Debates for Des Moines County Board of Supervisors, Des Moines County Sheriff, and State Senate District 44. For more Get Out the Vote resources, the Iowa Secretary of State has an excellent website at voterready.iowa.gov.

Are you ready to vote?

Three Simple Steps:

- Register to Vote. You can do this online, through the mail, or at the polls on Election Day.
- Choose your preferred method of voting, absentee or at the polls. The Auditors office will open for in-person absentee voting and can begin mailing ballots on Monday, October 5.
- Polls will be open on Tuesday, November 3 from 7 AM – 9 PM
- Remember to bring your ID

Important Dates:

- Monday, October 5 is the first day for Absentee Voting
- Saturday, October 24 is the deadline to request an Absentee Ballot to be mailed
- Monday, November 2 is the deadline for Absentee Ballots to be postmarked
- Tuesday, November 3 is General Election Day, vote in person at the polls

Every vote matters. Make yours count.

-  **Barb Gerst**
Director of Finance
319-208-0044
bgerst@greaterburlington.com
-  **Cindy Henry**
Customer Relations Specialist
319-208-0052
chenry@greaterburlington.com
-  **Jeremy Hess**
Dir. of Economic Development
319-208-0050
jhess@greaterburlington.com
-  **Chelsea Lerud**
Convention & Visitors Bureau
Exec. Dir. 319-208-0045
clerud@greaterburlington.com
-  **Brenda Levitt**
Graphic Designer
319-208-0047
blevitt@greaterburlington.com
-  **Rachel Lindeen**
Event Coordinator
319-208-0046
rlindeen@greaterburlington.com
-  **Amy Moyner**
Downtown Partners, Inc.
Exec. Dir. 319-208-0056
amoyner@greaterburlington.com
-  **Emily Pattee**
Program Coordinator & Young Prof.
319-208-0040
epattee@greaterburlington.com
-  **Dustin Roth**
Marketing & Communications Dir.
319-208-0048
droth@greaterburlington.com
-  **Della Schmidt**
President & CEO
319-208-0043
dschmidt@greaterburlington.com



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ON THE COVER

Government Relations Committee

The Greater Burlington Partnership is very involved in public policy through the wonderful volunteers of the Government Relations committee. Each year, the committee drafts a public policy agenda based on the results of surveys and other feedback from Chamber of Commerce members. During the Iowa legislative session, the committee hosts monthly "Eggs and Issues." These sessions are a forum for Chamber of Commerce members to speak directly with area representatives. The committee also leads two regional lobbying trips - one to Des Moines and one to Washington, D.C. During these events, attendees advocate on policy issues and projects important to all of Southeast Iowa. Locally, the Government Relations committee moderates forums for local elections, providing an opportunity for voters to know where candidates stand on important issues. The volunteers on the committee help express the business perspective on important issues at the local, state, and national level.

On the cover top to bottom, left to right

Chad Palmer, Energyefficient Systems, Inc.

Steve Francis, Great Western Bank

Bryan Bross, Klingner and Associates, P.C.

Jerry Jochims

Mary Beaird, Southeast Iowa Regional Airport Authority

Bob Bartles, Hope Haven Area Development Center Corp



IOWA SECRETARY OF STATE WANTS YOU TO BE VOTER READY!

THE IOWA SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE WANTS YOU TO BE VOTER READY BY SHOWING A VALID FORM OF IDENTIFICATION WHEN VOTING AT THE POLLS. CLICK TO LEARN MORE.



The 2020 Election is here. The Government Relations Committee hosted candidate forums for local contested races. Check out GreaterBurlington.com for video links to the Des Moines County Sheriff, Des Moines County Supervisor, and State Senate District 44 forums.

VOTER INFORMATION

What to expect on Election Day: Q & A with the Des Moines County Auditor

Will voting be at 'normal' locations? "We are currently working on poll worker lists to make sure there is an adequate number of poll workers for each precinct. A couple of very rural precincts may have a shortage, which could mean those residents may have to vote at another location."

What to expect for safety precautions? "We have purchased, and the Secretary of State's Office has provided, PPE, hand sanitizer and disinfectant. The Maintenance Crew has built protective screens to be used at the polls. We have signage and a large supply of pens that the voter will take with them to not be reused by other voters or they can drop the pen in a container to be disinfected for reuse, if needed."

What kind of in-person turn out are you expecting?

"That is a good question. 2004, 2008 and 2012 elections averaged 20,600 voters (this included absentee voters). Absentee voters averaged 47% of the voters in the last three presidential elections with an average of 10,717

in-person voting at the polls. With COVID this year, there is a possibility of absentee voting making up 75% of the voter turnout. I highly encourage absentee voting to ensure everyone feels safe. This includes poll workers because not every precinct has the room for large turnouts with social distancing requirements needed."

Poling hours? "The polling hours on election day are 7 AM to 9 PM."

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Information for absentee voting:

When will you receive a request for ballot? “We started receiving and entering request forms on July 6. We will continue to receive requests for ballots to be mailed until October 24 at 5 PM. This is the last day we can mail an absentee ballot. This is also the last day to pre-register for the election. After October 24, anyone not pre-registered will have to provide a photo ID and proof of residence before registering and voting (both at the same time) either absentee or on election day.”

When do the absentee ballots need to be returned to the Court House? “Mailed absentee ballots must be postmarked the day before the election (November 2). If you do not get it mailed by November 2, the ballot can be hand delivered to the Auditor’s Office or placed in the tin Des Moines County dropbox by 9 PM on election day.”

Early voting at Court House? “In-person absentee voting begins on October 5 at 8 AM and ends November 2 at 5 PM. We will be open the two Saturdays, October 24 and 31, before the election for absentee voting.”

A special thank you to Terri Johnson, Des Moines County Auditor, for taking time to answer important questions regarding voting this election.

Additional voting information:

The media is making a big deal of the time it will take to return and count the results. How will Des Moines County be handling this? “We will have 4 to 5 absentee teams reviewing and opening absentee ballots. Historically, absentee ballots have always been the first results presented before the precinct results are received. We hope that holds true this year. We will be here until all unofficial results are in. Following the election, we will continue to receive any ballots postmarked before the election and received by Noon on November 9. Those ballots will be added to the final official count for the election canvass on November 10.”

Anything else you would like to include? “Yes, regarding absentee voting, if a voter requests an absentee ballot to be mailed and then decides to vote at the polls the voter must bring the unvoted ballot to the polls and surrender the ballot before receiving a ballot to vote at the polls. Surrendering a ballot is the quickest way to be able to vote. The voter cannot vote the absentee ballot and bring it to the polls; this is not allowed. If they don’t bring the absentee ballot with them to the polls to surrender, the poll worker is required to call the Auditor’s Office to verify the absentee ballot has not been received for counting. If the poll worker cannot reach the Auditor’s Office due to a large amount of phone calls, then the voter will have to vote a provisional ballot and that ballot CANNOT be counted at the polls. It has to be separate and counted at the Auditor’s Office. Plus while all of this is going on, other voters are patiently, or impatiently, waiting for their turn to vote.”

Iowa Voter Identification Requirements

Pre-Registered Voters, Pending Voters and Voters Changing Precincts

Proof of Identity

- Iowa Driver’s License (not expired more than 90 days)
- Iowa Non-operator ID (not expired more than 90 days)
- U.S. Passport (not expired)
- U.S. Military ID or Veteran ID (not expired)
- Iowa Voter Identification Card (must be signed)
- Tribal ID Card/Document (must be signed, with photo, not expired)

A voter without one of the above forms of ID may have the voter’s identity attested to by another registered voter in the precinct or may prove identity and residence using Election Day Registration documents.

Voters changing precincts and pending voters must also provide proof of residence, if proof of identity does not contain voter’s current address.

Proof of Residence (must include name and current address and be current within 45 days; may be in an electronic format or on paper)

- Residential lease
- Utility bill, including a cell phone bill
- Bank statement
- Paycheck
- Government check
- Other government document
- Property tax statement (current within 45 days of final payment date)

* Have You Been Convicted of a Felony? *

You cannot use election day registration procedures unless your right to vote has been restored by the Governor of Iowa. If you are not 100% sure your right to vote has been restored, request a provisional ballot.

Election Day Registrants

Proof of Identity

(must include a photo and current and valid expiration date)

- Iowa Driver’s License or Non-operator ID
- Out-of-state Driver’s License or Non-operator ID
- U.S. Passport
- U.S. Military ID or Veteran ID
- ID card issued by employer
- Student ID issued by Iowa high school or college
- Tribal ID Card/Document (must be signed, with photo, not expired)

If above proof of residence does not contain the voter’s current address, an Election Day Registrant must also provide separate proof of residence.

Proof of Residence (must include name and current address and be current within 45 days; may be in an electronic format or on paper)

- Residential lease
- Utility bill, including a cell phone bill
- Bank statement
- Paycheck
- Government check
- Other government document
- Property tax statement (current within 45 days of final payment date)

Voters who are unable to show ID (or prove residence if required) may have their identities attested to by another registered voter in the precinct or have the right to cast a provisional ballot. Election Day Registrant attestors must also show ID. Call the Secretary of State’s Office at 1-888-SOS-VOTE or the County Auditor’s Office at 319-753-8710 with any questions or concerns.

Rev. 12/2018

Prepared by the Office of Iowa Secretary of State and approved by the Office of the Iowa Attorney General pursuant to §449.68.

Information current as of 9/11/20. Additional election information can be found at DMCounty.com

300 Washington Update

Downtown Partners, Inc. is continuing work to repair the damaged northeast corner of the building at 300 Washington. Decades of water infiltration had weakened the structure and washed out the mortar in the walls, resulting in bricks falling in June 2019. DPI has hired Grant Construction, a downtown business, as contractor. They are currently working on the 3rd floor of the building. The project is on target for completion of the structural integrity by mid-October. Terrus Real Estate Group has already shown the building several times in the past few months.

Next time you drive by, check out the new brick wall being built.



GREATER BURLINGTON NAMED REGIONAL SPORTS AUTHORITY DISTRICT, AGAIN!

The Greater Burlington Sports Commission, a committee of the Convention and Visitors Bureau, has been awarded the FY21 Regional Sports Authority District (RSAD) sports grant from the Iowa Economic Development Authority. IEDA approved nine RSAD communities from applications received by Iowa CVB's with an established Sports Commission. Approved districts in FY21 will be granted \$55,555 for hosting expenses of events in the designated sports district. This is the sixth time Greater Burlington has been approved for the funding.

A total of 17 partner sporting events, selected by the Greater Burlington Sports Commission through an application process, will receive a portion of the funding. These events taking place July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 are expected to attract over 44,000 participants and spectators, generate 12,500 hotel room nights and generate an estimated economic impact of over \$1.2 M to Southeast Iowa's economy.

Congratulations to the partner organizations:

- 34 Raceway
- Adidas Soccer
- Bike Burlington
- Brent Slocum Foundation
- Burlington Area USBC
- Burlington Regional RecPlex
- Perfect Game
- Southeast Soccer Academy



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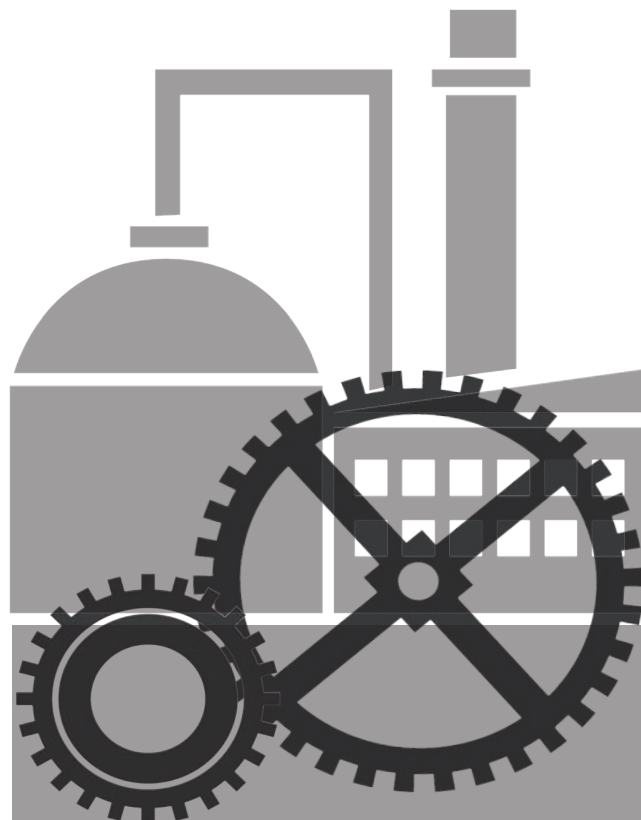
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Gambling problem? Call 1-800-BETS-OFF

Manufacturing Month

Where would we be without manufacturing in Iowa? For one thing, we'd have about 221,000 people without jobs statewide. No matter how you crunch the numbers manufacturing is critically important to our state and local economy. Manufacturing contributed \$36 Billion to Iowa's economy in 2019 and accounted for 10.7 percent of Iowa's total employment. Over half of those jobs are located in non-metro communities like Greater Burlington. Those are great jobs with the average manufacturing job in Iowa paying \$56,080 (2018).

Locally, Greater Burlington is home to some of the best manufacturers in the world. Every one of them has proven themselves to be critical during this global pandemic. Industries crucial to the food supply chain, national defense, infrastructure, agriculture, communication, housing and others all call Des Moines County home. Every one of these facilities finds innovative ways to operate efficiently, safely, and keep producing goods the nation and the world needs to keep moving forward. If you work in manufacturing, regardless of your station, Greater Burlington says, "Thank You!" The community and nation would grind to an abrupt halt without you. The Partnership recognizes all of the great manufacturing facilities during manufacturing month.



144 Envelopes - THANK YOU

Thank you to those that helped support the 144 Envelopes fundraiser. The mission of Downtown Partner's, Inc. is to preserve and revitalize downtown Burlington by enhancing its economy, infrastructure, and historical and cultural features.

The proceeds of the 144 Envelopes Campaign help support the mission of Downtown Partners, Inc. and the downtown businesses loved by all. Main Streets are a proven economic driver for the community and play a vital role in restarting the economy.

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Marketing & Sponsorship Opportunities

Are you looking for new ways to promote your business or organization? Now is your chance! Check out the current Greater Burlington Partnership 2021 offerings to make sure you don't

miss out. The Greater Burlington Partnership is also renewing and offering your favorite sponsorships for the events the team feels confident can be held in 2021.

Advertising options are available NOW, with some great new additions. Special discounts are being offered for **2021 Community Guide** ads. Embed your business video in the digital guide with your sixth page or larger ad or enhance the listing provided to all Chamber of Commerce members. Include your business listing on the new Advertiser's Page of the Community Guide.

Create a display promoting your business for a month at the **Port of Burlington Welcome Center** or add your own video to the mix of promotional videos highlighting area attractions shown throughout the day. Or promote your business by advertising in *The Partnership Newsletter*.



Quality of life in Greater Burlington means access to the area's premiere Farmers Market or the family friendly **5 & V Outdoor Cinema**. Sponsoring a month of the **Jefferson Street Farmers Market** or one of the movies means promoting your business at events that makes your community a great place to live and play.



Take part in providing professional development programs by supporting **Greater Burlington Young Professionals** or **Greater Burlington Leadership**.

The advocacy component of the Chamber of Commerce helps ensure Southeast Iowa needs and issues are kept in front of elected officials at all levels of government. Sponsor **Eggs & Issues** or **Southeast Iowa Days** as an opportunity for members to engage with elected officials.





How great was the 2020 **Chamber of Commerce Golf Outing**? The event was completely sold out, as were most of the sponsorships, so don't miss your chance to renew your sponsorship for 2021!

If you were a sponsor or advertiser of 2020 Marketing and Sponsorships opportunities, you will be contacted regarding your chance to renew. Or, reach out now to be sure to exercise your First Right of Refusal to secure your spot again for 2021.

Please note these important deadlines:

- Community Guide advertising deadline is October 9.
- First Right of Refusal deadline is October 16.
- In light of the Covid-19 situation, the Partnership is postponing information for some events until a later date.

The list of current Marketing and Sponsorships options is online at GreaterBurlington.com.

Contact Cindy Henry to secure your marketing & sponsorship benefits.



Virtual State of the Economy

October 16, 11:30 AM – 1 PM | VIA ZOOM

Be a part of this event which rallies elected officials, industry leaders, and local entrepreneurs around a single topic: the local economy.

This is an exclusive event for Partnering for the Future III investors.

Watch your inbox for additional login information.

Platinum Sponsor:

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DISCOVER DOWNTOWN *for the Holidays*



Holiday Open House

November 8, 12 - 4 PM

Kick off the holiday season with a favorite event - downtown Burlington's Holiday Open House on Sunday, November 8. Get a head start on holiday gift buying and register from 12 - 4 PM at 13 participating businesses for the giveaway of \$500 in Downtown Dollars. The winner will be announced live on Downtown Burlington's Facebook page.



OCTOBER 23, 5 - 8 PM
DOWNTOWN BURLINGTON

Grab your Ghoul Friends and fly over for a fun-filled evening in Downtown Burlington. Purchase your witch hat and mask to take advantage of 'spell'tacular savings at downtown businesses. With a purchase of a ticket for \$10, receive a witch's hat, black mask, and all the spooky bling needed to cast a bewitching spell! Tickets available at [Weird Harold's](#) or [GreaterBurlington.com](#).



Appropriate health measures will be followed according to current guidelines at the time of the event.

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(1) Outside-County as Stated on Form 3541:	128	125
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17. Publication of Statement of Ownership: Publication required. Will be published 10/01/20 in the October 2020 issue of this publication.
18. I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties). /s/ Brenda Levitt - 10/01/20

Join in the fun!

Thank you to the participants of the Virtual Young Professionals Leadership Conference and our fantastic speakers Randy Wehofer, Stephanie Kozlowski, and Ricci Dula.

What attendees are saying. . .

"The conference was very informative and motivating. Sometimes we get stuck in our ways and could use some positivity and inspiration to grow and move forward... especially during these times. Definitely left the call energized and ready to put some of those practices into place!"

"The virtual conference was well done. The social at the end went better than expected. I wasn't sure how it was going to work."



"Randy Wehofer was so great and I'm not even a sports person!"

"Ricci brought so much energy to the call. What an inspiring person."



"Stephanie shared many things we as young professionals should know, but most probably don't!"



Contact Emily Pattee if you are interested in purchasing a video of this year's YP conference.



YP of the Month
Paige Ringer

Employer: The Hawk Eye/Local IQ
Hometown: Farmington, MI
YP Member: 1 year

Why did you join YP? "I wanted to connect with more people around my age as well as expand my network."

Which community organizations do you volunteer for? "Church Worship Team, Celebrate Recovery, Youth Ministry, Milestone Area Agency on Aging, and YP Leadership Council"

What do you enjoy most about the area? "I love spending time on and by the river! Going out swimming or fishing in the summer, events at the Auditorium, or walking along the river walk in the fall and winter. It is always a beautiful site."

Unique about me: "I love animals! I have always had pets, usually several at a time. Anything from turtles, hamsters, geckos, snakes, iguanas, dogs, and now my two lovely cats!"

October events to be determined. Follow the Greater Burlington YP Facebook group for updates. Questions? Email youngprofessionals@greaterburlington.com

2020 Gold Sponsor: CNH Industrial

Greater Burlington Young Professionals
a professional and social group for individuals between the ages of 21 - 40.

Thinking of joining YP?

Email youngprofessionals@greaterburlington.com for more information.

October EVENTS

1 - 31

Gallery Show: John Weyl
Art Center of Burlington
hours vary
ArtCenterofBurlington.com

2

Civic Music - Farewell Angelina
Burlington Memorial Auditorium
7 PM
BurlCivicMusic.com

2

Ghost of Judas
Wake 'n Bake Breakfast Company,
7 - 11 PM
Facebook.com/WakenBakeBreakfast

3 - 4

34 Market & Craft Fair
34 Raceway
9 AM - 4 PM
34raceway.com

6

Gallery Show Reception
Art Center of Burlington
1 - 3 PM
ArtCenterofBurlington.com

10

Burlington Walk to End Alzheimer's
Virtual
Act.alz.org/burlingtonwalk

10

Paddle in the Park
Big Hollow Recreation Area
1 - 4 PM
DMCConservation.com

16

State of the Economy
Via Zoom
11:30 AM - 1 PM
GreaterBurlington.com

16

Cruise Night
Jefferson St, 5 PM

16

Bluzillion
Wake 'n Bake Breakfast Company
7 - 10 PM
Facebook.com/WakenBakeBreakfast

16 - 17, 23 - 24, 30 - 31

Haunted Auditorium
Burlington Memorial Auditorium
7:30 - 11:30 PM
BurlingtonRiverfront.org

17 - 18

Monster Match
Burlington RecPlex
SesaSoccer.com

17

Pumpkinpalooza
Virtual
10 AM - 12 PM
Burlington.lib.ia.us

17

410 Final
34 Raceway
5 - 10 PM
34raceway.com

23

Witches Night Out
Downtown Burlington
5 - 8 PM
GreaterBurlington.com

24

Once Upon A 5K Fun Run/Walk
for Readers
Burlington Rotary Club
9:30 AM
Facebook.com/BurlingtonRotaryClub

24 - 25

Dome Warm Up (Adult Slow-Pitch)
Tournament
FunCity Turf
GreaterBurlingtonSports.com

31

Girls on the Run 5K Fun
Burlington Area YMCA
9 - 11 AM
Facebook.com/BurlingtonY

SAVE the DATE

To find the latest information
on upcoming events in the
Greater Burlington area visit
GreaterBurlington.com/Events.



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WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome these new Chamber of Commerce members by sending an email, liking their Facebook page or visiting their website. Even better, stop by to introduce yourself, exchange business cards and help grow their network as well as your own!

BASH

550 S Gear Ave, West Burlington, 319-209-2134

Pietro Alfano, Owner

With 30 years of experience, Bash owners pride themselves on offering superlative service and a highly experienced chef. Signature mac & cheese bowls, signature burgers, and a full bar round out your dine-in or curbside service.



Gary Roberts, Individual Member
Individual Member, Burlington

For information on membership, contact Cindy Henry.



National Support Your Local Chamber of Commerce Day - October 21

Like businesses all over the world, 2020 brought unparalleled challenges to the Burlington/West Burlington Area Chamber of Commerce and to the businesses and communities served. The Partnership pivoted quickly from “normal” operations to respond to the needs of the community due to the pandemic. The Chamber became a one-stop-spot for COVID-19 resources and provided webinars with experts and business leaders to disseminate rapidly changing information. The Chamber also provided one-on-one member assistance, created Greater Burlington Delivers to provide restaurant service updates, helped members assist struggling employees through the Fareway Gift Card program grant, and connected member donors with member businesses in need of assistance and volunteers with non-profits.

Chamber membership provides you with access to professional trainings and networking opportunities, referrals for your business, marketing and visibility opportunities, and advocacy for the issues facing Southeast Iowa. As the community moves forward in these uncertain times, the Chamber will continue the new Consumer Confidence Campaign, encourage shopping locally, and focus strongly on government relations.

Your membership and your sponsorships enables the team to continue to work to meet the needs of the Greater Burlington business community. Show your support on October 21, and every day, by continuing your membership investment and encouraging other businesses to join the Chamber of Commerce. Together the community is stronger!

#SupportYourLocalChamberDay #ChamberProud #gbpartnership

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Great Times at Good Restaurant + Lounge

Good Restaurant + Lounge is a fun and fresh New American restaurant located in a 178 year old stone house along the Mississippi. Part of the Heritage Hill District, the recipient of restoration grants and 2019's Best Renovation to a Facility Award, Good is comprised of a young team bringing new life to an old, awesome house. They welcome you into their home to enjoy brunch or dinner in the dining rooms or deck, craft cocktails at the fire pit, or a beer and a game in the upstairs Lounge.

Civic Music - Farewell Angelina October 2, 7 - 9 PM

Civic Music's 91st season adds to its history with first-ever outdoor concerts.

Standout performers during Civic Music's 2018-2019 season, this all-female country group returns, featuring four powerhouse singers, and dynamic songwriters and multi-instrumentalists. Named by *Rolling Stone* in 2017 as one of the "10 New Country Artists You Need to Know," the audience can expect strong women to deliver sophisticated songs that matter to fans and new listeners. Farewell Angelina has opened for Blake Shelton and enhanced country songs for Trace Adkins, among others.

Visit BurlCivicMusic.com for more information and to purchase tickets.

Thirty Four Market & Craft Fair October 3 - 4, 9 AM - 4 PM

Head to 34 Raceway for this two-day event featuring homemade, handcrafted, boutique and direct sales items as well as farm-to-table foods! Vendors are still being accepted.

Email jessi@34raceway.com for more information.

Pumpkinpalooza – October 17, 10 AM - 12 PM

Pumpkinpalooza has become one of the most popular annual events at the library; join us this year for a virtual experience. Craft bags will be available for pick up at the front door.

Make sure to register early to reserve your spot!

Register by calling the library, or online at burlington.lib.ia.us.

Beverly Place Welcomes You!

Beverly Place is better than ever! The beautiful 55+ cooperative sits on 14 acres, providing a park like atmosphere with ample green space, walking paths, and a large pond with boat house. With prices starting at \$87,500, and unit sizes ranging from 753 to 2490 square feet, there is something for everyone at Beverly Place.

Cooperative living offers a maintenance free lifestyle in a secure setting. Beverly Place offers many amenities, including two swim spas, a golf simulator, fitness rooms, and guest suites.

Call 319-768-6744 or visit BeverlyPlace.net for more information.

Paddle in the Park – October 10, 1 - 4 PM

DMCC Environmental Education staff will be on Big Hollow Lake one final time for 2020. Get out on the water for paddling fun to explore the lake. You will see birds, fish, and fall colors. A limited number of boats are available and space is limited. Registration for the event is required in advance by calling Starr's Cave at 319-753-5808.

Visit DMCCConservation.com for more information.

410 Final – October 17, 5 - 10 PM

Head out to 34 Raceway for an action packed night of 410 Sprints - Winged. Additional details to be released at 34raceway.com.

Can't watch from the stands in person? Don't worry, Done Right TV has the hook up for the 2020 season. Head to DoneRight.tv to order your online seat to the action. A portion of the weekly Done Right TV broadcast does stay at 34 Raceway so please know your purchase is benefiting the racetrack each time you watch with their services.



To submit member information, contact Brenda Levitt

HARVEST TIME

by Kay Weiss

In 1916 the United States Congress passed a Grain Standards Act that established uniform methods of evaluating grain based on moisture content, weight, percentage of broken or damaged kernels, and the percentage of foreign materials present in samples taken from shipping barges and train cars. Grain was also inspected by odor (sour?, musty?) and for the presence of weevils. Before the passage of this Federal act, each state had its own standards. Iowa's grains were often sold at lower prices, than farmers felt they warranted because other states had lower standards and grain shipments sent around the world were often of poor quality.

Around 1930 the Burlington Chamber of Commerce Grain Inspection Service was established as a benefit to farmers and shippers in the area. As a not-for-profit division of the Chamber of Commerce the employees worked to ensure that local crops were of high quality and were not sold for less than their true value.

To accomplish their task, the inspectors (who were licensed and monitored by the U.S.D.A.) checked the physical condition of empty river barges and trucks. They also used a variety of tools to obtain samples of each load of grain. A mechanical sampler could gather grain from the top, middle, and bottom of a barge. A pelican sampler (a wide-mouthed, leather pouch on the end of a long pole) allowed the inspector to go well below the surface of a shipment to

obtain a sample for testing. A probing sampler could be inserted into the bed of a truck to obtain twelve samples in the small compartments that were attached to a long brass pole. Local inspectors often used at least two of the three methods on each shipment to maintain the quality of their work and their accuracy.

In the 1965 season the four-member team of grain inspectors checked samples from over 23 million bushels of corn and soybeans that were sent out of the area by truck, rail, and barge. By 1976 there were 845 barges carrying nearly 47 million bushels of either corn or soy beans inspected by a team of five men.

Scandals at New Orleans began to plague the grain trade in the 1970s. It was discovered that some Federal inspectors had ties to the grain industry and were involved in criminal activities at a number of rail, truck, and river collection sites. Consequently, the Federal Grain Inspection Service requirements regarding possible conflicts of interest became so stringent (example: no elevator operators could serve on the Chamber of Commerce Board) that the Chamber of Commerce was no longer willing to operate the service. The Chamber of Commerce's non-profit business, the last of its type in Iowa, was sold at the end of the 1979 shipping season after nearly 50 years of service to the area's farming community.





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**SHOP EARLY
 SHOP SAFE**



The Chamber of Commerce wants everyone to stay safe this holiday season.

Introducing Shop Early Shop Safe. Beginning October 1, the Chamber of Commerce will begin a two month marketing campaign designed to get people shopping early and at local Chamber of Commerce members this holiday season. For more information on how your business can help spread the word and participate for free, visit GreaterBurlington.com.



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