



ADVOCACY REMAINS A TOP PRIORITY

by Della Schmidt

The Greater Burlington Partnership is committed to advocating at all levels of government as the voice of business for Des Moines County. Each year, the Partnership adopts a

Public Policy Agenda featuring legislative priorities that have been created with the mission of each of the four Partnership entities in mind. While all the policy positions included in the Partnership's 2024 Public Policy Agenda are important, the Partnership will focus on the following five (5) priorities:

- **Talent Attraction:** Workforce needs can only be met through attracting people to Des Moines County. The Partnership supports legislative policies that will aid in growing the population and attracting the talent needed to fill open jobs in the Greater Burlington area.
- **Housing:** Expanding efforts to address workforce housing shortages. Iowa must be proactive in providing a diverse array of housing options for the attraction of talent. Incentives to defray the development costs for new housing, redevelopment of existing housing and revitalized neighborhoods could provide the needed investments.
- **Workforce & Education:** The future lies with those that are being educated today. Strong relationships between school districts, community colleges, and employers are vital to Greater Burlington's quality of life, as well as a critical attractor of business to the community. The Partnership supports policies that enhance access to quality education and skills development opportunities for pre-kindergarten to adult learners.
- **Provide a full spectrum of Mental Health care in our region.** Identify methods to establish equity for rural Iowans to easily access services, including transportation as an allowable service of the Region. Provide the Regions/Counties with tools to offset the costs of doing business and providing equitable services/access across areas of low population density.
- **Childcare.** The Greater Burlington Partnership supports legislative policies that encourage expansion, equitable access, and maintain quality, affordable childcare for all.

Local, state, and federal elected officials play a significant role in shaping the environment in which businesses operate. The Partnership staff and Chamber of Commerce Government Relations Committee work to ensure that elected officials are aware of the priorities contained within the annual Public Policy Agenda. In addition to direct interactions with legislators, this work is carried out through vehicles such as the Public Officials Reception, Friday Forum events held at the Partnership office throughout the year, Southeast Iowa Days at the Iowa State Capitol in February, and the annual late-spring Southeast Iowa Washington D.C. fly-in.

To view the entire Public Policy Agenda, please visit Greaterburlington.com/chamber-of-commerce/advocacy-government-relations/legislative-priorities/



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ON THE COVER

Southeast Iowa Days

Every year in February, the Greater Burlington Partnership co-hosts the Southeast Iowa Days regional trip to Iowa's Capitol in Des Moines. It is an opportunity for Chamber of Commerce members to meet state legislators and lobby for current issues effecting local businesses and the Greater Burlington community. The delegation represents a collaboration with colleagues and stakeholders throughout a six-county area.

Delegates get the opportunity to spend quality face-to-face time with state legislators and hear presentations from the heads of major state agencies. Governor Kim Reynolds and Lt. Governor Adam Gregg have taken time out of their busy schedules to stop by, say hello, and make remarks. Another highlight is the Legislative Reception where the conversation continues in a more relaxed atmosphere.

This is one of several events hosted by the Government Relations Committee of the Burlington/West Burlington Area Chamber of Commerce. Their advocacy efforts include the Southeast Iowa

delegation trips to Des Moines and Washington DC, hosting Friday Forums with state legislators during the legislative session, and moderating candidate forums for contested races within Des Moines County.

In addition, the Committee releases an annual Public Policy Guide, which articulates local, state, and federal priorities that are shared with stakeholders at those levels of government. Copies of the Public Policy Guide are available at the Greater Burlington Partnership.

If you would like to learn more or would be interested in becoming a volunteer member of the Government Relations Committee, please contact Steven Brody at sbrody@greaterburlington.com or 319-752-6365. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at 8 AM.

JEFFERSON STREET FARMERS MARKET – APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Downtown Partners, Inc. is looking forward to the 2024 season of the Jefferson Street Farmers Market! Applications for the Jefferson Street Farmers Market can be found at GreaterBurlington.com. Follow the Jefferson Street Farmers Market Facebook page for news about the weekly market.



A VERY VINTAGE MARKET – APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Vendor applications for A Very Vintage Market are now available online. The market will take place on July 20. Follow the A Very Vintage Market Facebook page for news about the 9th annual event. **NEW** this year on July 19, A Very Vintage Market Night Out!



Disney Winnie the Pooh A Valentine For You



Valentine's Day Story Walk February 10, 10 AM - 2 PM



Downtown Partners, Inc. has partnered with the Iowa State Extension Office and BCSD's PiECES After School Program to bring to life a story about Winnie the Pooh discovering that the heart is big and always has room for more friends.

This event is most enjoyed by kids 10 years of age and under and will lead the child throughout the Downtown and into storefronts, while enjoying reading a story with Winnie and Pooh and all of his friends from the Hundred Acre Wood.

It all starts with a craft at the Art Center of Burlington and ends with a movie at the Capitol Theater. This event will encourage youth to read and make reading fun.

If you would like to participate in a window, please visit Greaterburlington.com or contact Amy Moyner at amoyner@greaterburlington.com.



WHAT COULD YOUR BUSINESS DO WITH AN EXTRA \$20,000?

2024 MAIN STREET IOWA OPEN 4 BUSINESS

2024 PROGRAM TIMELINE

APPLICATION RELEASED	APPLICATION DUE	VIRTUAL INTERVIEWS	STATE CONTEST
MARCH 4, 2024	APRIL 1, 2024	JUNE 12, 2024	AUGUST 5, 2024

With Main Street Iowa and the Iowa Economic Development Authority, Downtown Partners, Inc. presents the Open 4 Business Competition for a for-profit business located in the Main Street district. Each of the state's Main Street organizations can nominate one business.

If you have been in business since March 31, 2023, and are either currently or planning to be located in Downtown Burlington - you qualify!

Applicants will be required to complete an online application and submit a three minute "video pitch" about their business idea.

More information visit GreaterBurlington.com.

B U R L I N G T O N

It's Happening

LAUNCH PARTY

What: Mark your calendars for the 2024 Young Professionals Launch Party! Enjoy appetizers, drinks, and live music in the Burlington Art Center gallery while celebrating the exciting new changes to the Young Professionals program! Learn what events will be happening throughout the year, enter to win raffle drawings, mingle with peers and make suggestions for activities you'd like to see on the roster for 2024.

Who: The Young Professional program is open to anyone between the ages of 21 - 40. This launch party is free and open to the public.

When: February 27, 5 - 7 PM

Where: Burlington Art Center, 301 Jefferson Street

For more information, please contact Mac Holford at mholford@greaterburlington.com.

The Greater Burlington Young Professionals program is designed to empower our members by giving them the opportunity to be involved in the Greater Burlington community. Grow your social circle while keeping your professional toolbox full by utilizing our many membership benefits. We help to prepare you for the future by offering seminars on common community questions such as home buying, negotiations, and more. We'll keep you engaged with local businesses and fellow members by hosting social events, tours to surrounding communities, volunteer opportunities, and exclusive mini classes from local professionals.

We take pride in our members and promote excellence by recognizing those who go above and beyond in their career, the community, or the program by giving multiple awards throughout the year.

What are you waiting for? Join the Young Professionals in 2024!

For more information on joining, email us at YoungProfessionals@greaterburlington.com



BUSINESS afterHOURS

Burlington Riverfront Entertainment - Memorial Auditorium
200 N Front St, February 8, 5 - 7 PM

Join Chamber of Commerce member businesses to build your network at Business After Hours and grow your business!



SOUTHEAST IOWA DAYS

Des Moines on February 7 & 8



There is still time to register and join the delegation of Southeast Iowa business and community leaders in Des Moines on February 7 & 8. Attendees will have an opportunity to meet face to face with legislators and state officials to share their thoughts regarding 2024 legislative priorities. The lineup will include leaders with Iowa Economic Development Authority, Iowa Tourism Office, Iowa Department of Transportation, Iowa Workforce Development, Iowa Rural Development Council, and Association of Business and Industry.

Who should attend: Any chamber member interested in advocating for pro-business legislation and those interested in a hands-on experience at the State Capitol while the 2024 Legislative Session is in full swing.

Cost: \$150 per person, which covers the luncheon, legislative reception, and Q&A sessions. Scan the QR code for registration.

Travel details: Participants are responsible for their own travel and lodging arrangements.



For more information and to RSVP, contact Steven Brody, sbrody@greaterburlington.com.



Have you missed All Things Greater Burlington? January started off with inciteful and fascinating interviews with Dr. Michael Ash from Southeastern Community College and Dr. Michael McCoy from Great River Health. Stay tuned for upcoming interviews with Burlington Fire Chief Matt Trexel, entrepreneur Chase Gibb, and Suann Wells of The Beancounter Coffeehouse & Drinkery.

The podcast and its episodes can be heard on Greater Burlington.com, Amazon Music, Google Podcasts, Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Castbox, Stitcher, and now iHeartRadio! Binge listening is highly recommended to get caught up!

Make sure to subscribe to stay informed when new episodes become available. Do you have a suggestion on who should be interviewed? Please contact Steven Brody.



Chamber of Commerce members will be emailed the 2024 Member Satisfaction Survey in the month of February. This survey has provided insightful and valuable feedback from members on the value of Chamber services and programs. It is important that we ask and engage members, so members know how much their annual investment is valued and appreciated. It is also a barometer to glean what is working for our members and what needs to be improved.

**THE ALL-NEW COMMUNITY PROFILE
& MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY**
Get Your Business Noticed

The Burlington / West Burlington Area Chamber of Commerce has partnered with Town Square Publications to produce a first of its kind, full-color printed 2024 - 2025 Community Profile & Chamber Membership Directory. Tell your story to thousands of business owners, residents, newcomers, and visitors. The Burlington / West Burlington Area Chamber of Commerce Community Profile & Membership Directory is the best way to reach that market.

Connect with thousands of current and new residents, and fellow Chamber and community members to help grow your business and market your services to our community. Along with the high-quality, magazine style printed publication, the online and mobile editions will be accessible from the Chamber's website so we will be able to share your story with a global audience.

In addition, Town Square's National Profile Network further extends the online exposure of your advertising message which increases your search engine optimization. Don't miss this opportunity to promote your business in 2024 and 2025!

Reserve your ad space today with the most effective, trusted, and recognized publication in our community.

Our representative from Town Square Publications is Alan Flinton. You may reach him via email at afinton@tspubs.com, by phone at the Partnership office: 319-752-6365, by cell: 405-659-4410, or by completing the form using the QR code and returning it to Alan.

Get your business noticed and keep it successful. Purchase your advertising space with the most effective publication distributed in the Burlington / West Burlington community and beyond.

NOTE: Only Chamber members in good standing as of March 2024 will be included.



SCAN ME

**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
FRIDAY FORUMS**

**GREATER BURLINGTON PARTNERSHIP
WINEGARD BOARD ROOM OR VIRTUAL, 8 AM**

**ON FEBRUARY 23,
THE FORUM WILL FEATURE
SENATOR JEFF REICHMAN AND
REPRESENTATIVE MATT RINKER**



**Senator
Jeff Reichman**



**Representative
Matt Rinker**

UPCOMING FORUM DATE: March 8

*Chamber of Commerce members
are invited to join the discussion in
person or listen in online.*



STEMFest

Southeast Iowa Regional STEM Festival

SHOW OFF YOUR BUSINESS.

Share your expertise with the community.

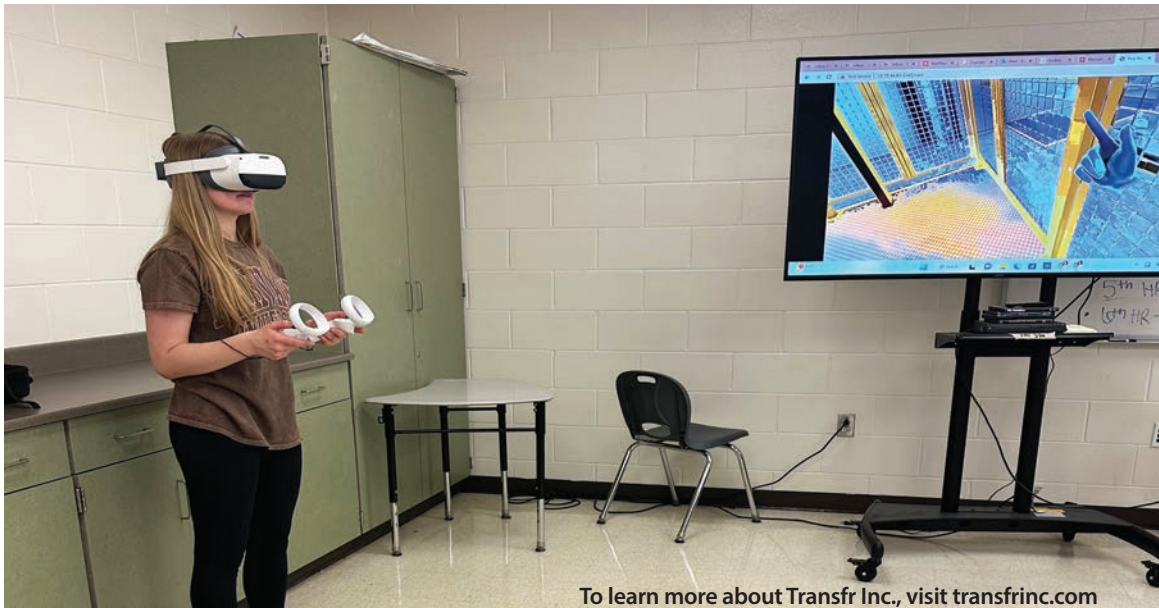
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VIRTUAL REALITY STUDENT CAREER EXPLORATION PILOT A SUCCESS

The Greater Burlington Partnership began piloting the Transfr Virtual Reality 1.0 Career Exploration Headsets last February in Burlington and West Burlington 8th grade classrooms. The pilot continued through the fall of 2023 and is still ongoing through the end of the 2023-2024 school year.

Transfr Inc., is a classroom-to-career technology company and has recently rolled out its 2.0 version, encompassing dozens of new career simulations added each quarter. These new simulations have been shortened, made more relevant to today's in-demand jobs, and are highly engaging for students. Telisha Fedele, Talent Development Program Manager at Greater Burlington Partnership, has been working closely with local educators to provide middle and high school students with these incredible and realistic career simulation activities at their fingertips without having to leave the classroom.

According to the data that Transfr collects on its online dashboard for teachers and administrators, more than 300 students have participated in the virtual reality career simulations since the fall. The top eight career simulations that were rated as 4-to-5-star experiences by local students in the last three months were:

- Broadband Technician
- EMT (First Responder)
- Surgical Technologist
- Registered Nurse
- Distribution Line Worker
- Transmission Line Workers
- Solar Technician
- Welder

New 2.0 Career Clusters

- Health Science
- Architecture & Construction
- Information Technology
- Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security
- Manufacturing

Mrs. Hertzler, a teacher at West Burlington Jr./Sr. High School, enjoys using the headsets in her classes. Hertzler commented that, "The VR headsets have been a classroom game changer. Not only does it allow for students to explore a multitude of careers, but it engages them in a way that is both fun and educational. My students are always asking about when they can use them next!"

Greater Burlington Partnership staff are looking forward to wrapping up the pilot program and using the data collected to help to establish and implement a larger, more sustainable program for students in Des Moines County Schools for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year.

Contact Telisha Fedele at tdedele@greaterburlington.com for more information or for investment opportunities in this program.

2023 CAREER FAIR REVIEW

The 20th Annual Grow Greater Burlington 5th and 8th Grade Career Fair was successful once again. Speakers from local banks, radio stations, manufacturers, health professions, the City of Burlington and many others donated their time to participate in career exploration activities with students at Southeastern Community College for the two-day event. Over 400 middle school students attended the 5th and 8th Grade Career Fairs, totaling close to 900 students in all. School districts that participated were Burlington, West Burlington, Danville, Mediapolis, and Burlington Notre Dame. Many of the speakers brought engaging career-related activities for students to participate in. Some also brought equipment and freebies from their workplace to show off and hand out to students.

Shana Augsburger, Director of Clinical Services, was a first-time speaker at the event this year. She created an activity where students played roles of different levels of management and employees and walked them through decision making scenarios. Shana commented that, "Having the opportunity to get in front of young people to encourage them about a career pathway is very fulfilling. I enjoyed asking the students questions and getting them to think about things they may not have before. Not only did I get a chance to hopefully inspire them, but I was also motivated by their energy and excitement. It always takes me back to why I got into my profession in the first place."

There is no doubt that Shana and the other speakers inspired many students during the Grow Greater Burlington's 5th and 8th Grade Career Fair, planting seeds that will help students grow on their journey to a career path in Greater Burlington.



KEY SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES IN 2024

The 2024 Golf Classic continues to sell quickly! Don't miss out! Register your team as a Birdie Sponsor (\$600 with signs at the event) or a Team of 4 (\$450) before the event sells out!

There are still a few great opportunities to put your business in front of the community and fellow Chamber of Commerce members! Key sponsorships remaining: Jefferson Street Farmers Market Premier Sponsor for August or September or *NEW!* Entertainment Sponsor for the FULL farmers market season. Holiday Business Showcase Premier Sponsor, Small Business Breakfast Speaker Sponsor, Manufacturers Appreciation Luncheon Booth Bingo Sponsor, and Living Windows Premier Sponsor.

Please contact Marty Mogk, mmogk@greaterburlington.com for details!

PLAY DODGEBALL AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Burlington Building Bridges is dedicated to transforming the lives of community members who face the daily struggles of poverty by equipping them with the tools they need to live a sustainable life. On April 13, area residents will have the chance to help Burlington Building Bridges help others... and have fun along the way.

Introducing Dodging Poverty, a dodgeball tournament hosted by the Greater Burlington Leadership class of 2023 - 24 on April 13, at the FunCity Courts. The goal of the project is to raise \$10,000, which will be donated directly to Burlington Building Bridges.

Teams of between 6 – 8 players, grouped by age, will compete in best-of-three mini-matches during the daylong event. Prizes will be awarded to teams in each bracket.

Team registration is available online: Members.GreaterBurlington.com/ap/Events/Register/yr41lK8p

Area businesses can make a meaningful impact by sponsoring this event. Those unable to participate in the tournament may still help by donating directly to the event proceeds online: GreaterBurlingtonpartnership.growthzoneapp.com/ap/donate/aPd1W3L8

For more information on Dodging Poverty, and to learn about sponsorship opportunities, contact Chris Gram at cgram@greaterburlington.com or call 319-208-0045.



SCAN HERE



GREATER BURLINGTON LEADERSHIP CLASS 2023 - 2024

WELCOME 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!

Holiday Inn Express – Kinseth Hospitality Companies

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Dirk Sanderson, Task Force Sales, 319-752-0000, dsanderson@kinseth.com

ihg.com/holidayinnexpress/hotels/us/en/burlington/brgia/hoteldetail/rooms

76 room hotel (under new ownership)

Fairfield Inn & Suites – Kinseth Hospitality Companies

1213 N Roosevelt Ave

Dirk Sanderson, Task Force Sales, 319-754-0000, dsanderson@kinseth.com

facebook.com/FairfieldInnSuitesBurlington

60 room/suite hotel (under new ownership)

River Ridge Dental Care – Dr. Nathan Heubner Dr.

Nathan Heubner, Dentist, 319-752-1840, Nathan-heubner@hotmail.com

We offer a comprehensive list of dental services including: Preventive, Diagnostic & Restorative Services, Aesthetic Services and Pedodontic Services.

RIBBON CUTTINGS & CELEBRATORY EVENTS



SOUTHEAST IOWA REGIONAL PLANNING
50TH ANNIVERSARY

"WE CAN OFFER YOU THIS PROGRAM THROUGH OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH THE EAU CLAIRE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN WISCONSIN AND MRA."

NEW RESOURCE FOR CHAMBER MEMBERS

The Greater Burlington Partnership has partnered with MRA (the largest employer association in the U.S.), and our colleagues at the Eau Claire Area Chamber of Commerce (WI) to offer a 2024 Benchmark Compensation Survey. Members of the Chamber that participate in the survey will receive a copy of the results and will have access to a virtual meeting where the survey results will be presented by MRA representatives.

WHAT: The data is collected for all U.S. Markets, with the final report containing five state sections (Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin) plus an overall section. With local, employer-matched, employer-reported pay data, you can be confident that your organization is making vital pay decisions based on solid, high-quality data that reflects the markets in which you do business. The 2024 Benchmark Compensation survey has over 550 jobs in crucial business areas, from staff to executives, covering over 550 jobs spanning across 32 job families.

- Accounting/Finance
- Administrative
- Engineering
- Executive
- Human Resources
- Marketing
- Project Management
- ...and more!

Who conducts the surveys? Founded in 1901, MRA is one of the largest employer associations in the country, serving 4,000 employers each year. Members range in size from small entrepreneurs to Fortune 50 companies and reflect the diversity of the industries in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Ohio, Kentucky, and Wisconsin. MRA's Survey and Business Research Department has been conducting surveys since 1901 and has a team of professionals with expertise in survey design, statistical analysis, compensation, and market research.

WHEN: Questionnaire Available: January 16 | **Report Published:** May 2024

Survey Deadline: February 23 | **Data Effective:** January 1, 2024

COST: Full report valued at \$2,399, **exclusive price for Chamber Members \$195!**

More information: Contact Steven Brody, sbrody@greaterburlington.com



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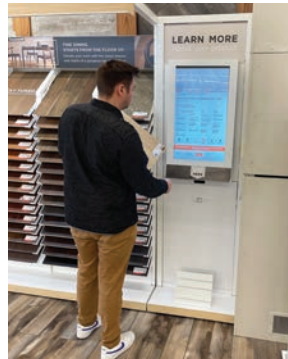
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Do you have something special to announce? A work anniversary, a retirement, a special award or recognition, a conference attended, a sales record, a name change, a new location? We would love to share this with our membership. Please contact Brenda Levitt.

Rheinschmidt Showroom Remodel

Welcome to Room to Explore, an inviting new showroom and website designed with you in mind. It makes creating your dream space easy and enjoyable thanks to cutting-edge technology and friendly experts that allow you to explore our collection online from the comfort of your home, save your favorites, and see them in person in our state-of-the-art showroom. These advanced tools and cutting-edge technology make it easy to find your perfect flooring match, while our friendly experts provide guidance and support to help you feel confident you are making the right choice.



Community Foundation of Des Moines County Letter from Chad Palmer, CLEP, President, CEO

This new appointment to Chairperson means a lot to me. I am so grateful and honored to follow the leaders that came before me and for this chance to lead the Board of the Community Foundation of Des Moines County.

Community foundations are different from other foundations. The State of Iowa encourages you to donate to our community foundations by offering you a 25% tax credit for every dollar you donate, because we are more than a foundation. Our work is to build a better community by bringing together the Des Moines County public sector, non-profits, and private donors to invest in meaningful projects and causes long term.

Did you know we can accept donations of appreciated stocks, cash, and other assets? We have a variety of giving tools available to help you reach your charitable and philanthropic goals. Donate today on our website cfmdc.org or contact us for answers to your giving questions. – Chad Palmer, Chairperson

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How TM differs from other meditations.
What happens during TM.

For more information visit TM.org/burlington

To schedule an in-person or video-conference talk contact Frank Boggess
SE Iowa Certified TM Instructor
319-380-4302, fboggess@tm.org

FEBRUARY

february

EVENTS

1 - 28 – February Gallery Show:
Corinne Stanley
Art Center of Burlington, hours vary
BTownArt.com

1 – Comedy Thursday: Bobcat Goldthwait
Memorial Auditorium, 7:30 PM
BurlingtonRiverfront.org

2 – Friday Night Art Hop
Art Center of Burlington, 6 - 7:30 PM
BTownArt.com

3 – Winter Fair Fundraising Dinner
Catfish Bend Convention & Event Center
5:30 pm
DesMoinesCountyFair.com

7 and 8 – Southeast Iowa Days
Iowa State Capitol, Des Moines
GreaterBurlington.com

8 – Business After Hours
Burlington Riverfront Entertainment
Memorial Auditorium, 5 - 7 pm
GreaterBurlington.com

9 - 11 – Westland Mall Winter Markets
ShopWestlandMall.com

9 – Church of Cash
Capitol Performing Arts Center, 7:30 PM
LiveAtTheCapitol.com

9 – Law Enforcement Appreciation Party
Memorial Auditorium, 8 PM
BurlingtonIowa.org

10 – STEM Fest
Southeastern Community College
10 AM - 1 PM
GreaterBurlington.com

10 – Valentine’s Story Walk
Art Center of Burlington, 10 AM
BTownArt.com

10 – STEM Fest
Southeastern Community College
10 AM - 1 PM
SCClowa.edu

14 – Valentine’s Date Night Drop Off
Cornerstone Wedding & Event Center
5 - 8 PM
TheCornerStoneIA.com

16 – Friday Night Art Hop
Art Center of Burlington, 6 - 7:30 PM
BTownArt.com

17 – Liverpool Legends
Legacy Theater, Carthage, IL, 7 PM
TheLegacyTheater.com

18 – Charity Chili Cook-Off
Cornerstone Wedding & Event Center,
12 PM
TheCornerStoneIA.com

20 – Black History Banquet
Southeastern Community College, 6 PM
SCClowa.edu

21– Lunchtime Chamber Music Series
First United Methodist Church, 12:15 PM
facebook.com/BurlingtonLunchtimeChamberMusicSeries

23 – Friday Forums
Greater Burlington Partnership
8 - 9 am, Zoom Optional
GreaterBurlington.com

24 and 25 – 2024 Home Show
Catfish Bend Convention &
Event Center, 10 AM
BigCountry1031.com

24 – Sofia Philharmonic
Memorial Auditorium, 7 PM
BurlCivicMusic.com

27 – Young Professionals Launch Party
Burlington Art Center Gallery, 5 - 7 PM
GreaterBurlington.com

28 – Shephard’s Table Free
Community Meal
First Congregational Church, 4:30 PM
FCCBurlington.org

29 – March 27– March Gallery Show:
James Walker Henry
Art Center of Burlington, hours vary
BTownArt.com

29 – Comedy Thursday: Tim Cavanaugh
Memorial Auditorium, 7:30 PM
BurlingtonRiverfront.org

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photo by Don Stewart

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COMEDY THURSDAY: BOBCAT GOLDTHWAIT

February 1 - 7:30 - 10 PM

Thursday is the funniest day in Greater Burlington as Burlington Riverfront Entertainment brings nationally touring comedians to the stage at Memorial Auditorium.

This month: Actor, director and renowned standup comedian Bobcat Goldthwaite brings his all-new routine to downtown Burlington!

Tickets are just \$15 (table seats \$25) online and at Memorial Auditorium box office. Doors open at 6:30 PM. Age 21 and older.

For more information, Visit: BurlingtonRiverfront.org

DES MOINES COUNTY FAIR WINTER FAIR FUNDRAISER

February 3, 5:30 - 10 PM

All are welcome to help support the Des Moines County Fair while enjoying a delicious meal and fun social hour, plus live music, live and silent auctions and more. Cash bar; age 21 and over. Tickets are \$50 and available online here, or call 641-295-3194 for more information.

For more information, follow the Des Moines County Fair on Facebook, or visit DesMoinesCountyFair.com

THE WILD WOMEN OF WINEDALE

February 9 - 18, times vary

Players Workshop of Burlington will open the hilarious *Wild Women of Winedale*, by Jamie Wooten, Jessie Jones, and Nicholas Hope, on February 9 at the Workshop!

The *Wild Women of Winedale* will be presented February 9-11 and 15-18. Performances begin at 7:30 PM, except for the two Sunday matinees on February 11 and 18, when starting times are at 2 PM. The production will run for two weekends. Tickets go on sale to the public on February 7.

For more information, call the Workshop at 319-753-6623, or check out the Workshop's Facebook page.

DES MOINES COUNTY CONSERVATION OWL PROWL

February 14, 21, 28 at 7 - 8 PM

Owl Prowls will meet at 7 PM on February 14, 21, and 28. Upon registration, you will receive the location details for the Owl Prowl. These programs are open to anyone, but since silent listening is required, children must be accompanied by an adult. Dress for the weather and prepare for a 2-mile hike in the dark. There is no fee to join this event, but registration is required, as space is limited.

To register, contact Starr's Cave Nature Center at 319-753-5808. For more information, visit: DMCConservation.com.

LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION PARTY

February 9, 8 - 10 PM, Memorial Auditorium

Burlington Area Crime Stoppers invites adults age 21 and over to support local law enforcement – and party!

With live music from Revel in Red. Tickets are \$15 each and available at Weird Harold's Records in downtown Burlington and Memorial Auditorium box office. Proceeds benefit Burlington Area Crime Stoppers.

For more information, visit BurlingtonIowa.org.

PRITCHARD BROADCASTING 2024 HOME SHOW

February 24, 8 AM - 4 PM | February 25, 11 AM - 2 PM

For more information, visit BurlingtonRadio.com.

BURLINGTON RIVERFRONT ENTERTAINMENT COMEDY THURSDAYS AT MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM

February 29, 7:30 - 10 PM

For more information, visit BurlingtonRiverfront.com.

Submit member information, to
Brenda Levitt at blevitt@greaterburlington.com

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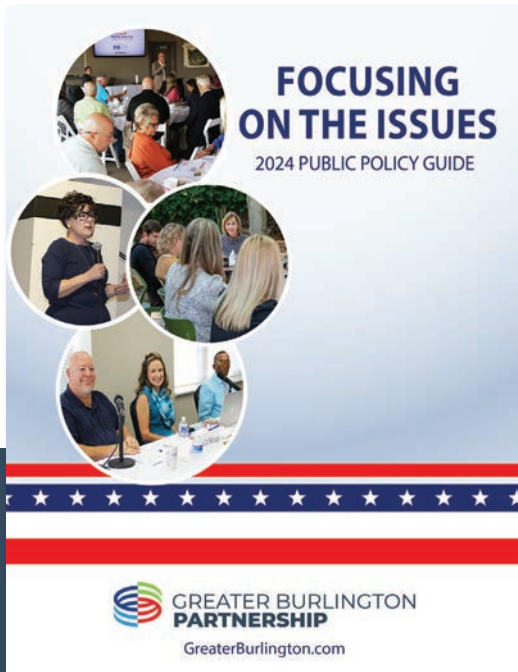
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2024 PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA

The Greater Burlington Partnership is a member of the Professional Developers of Iowa (PDI), an organization of economic development professionals working to grow and develop Iowa's economic base. The Greater Burlington Partnership has adopted the 2024 PDI State Legislative Priorities, which are available as an addendum to the Greater Burlington Partnership's 2024 Public Policy Agenda.



FOCUSING ON THE ISSUES
 2024 PUBLIC POLICY GUIDE

GREATER BURLINGTON PARTNERSHIP
 GreaterBurlington.com



FEDERAL PRIORITIES

Transportation & Infrastructure

State Development

Healthcare & Benefits

Regulatory & Fiscal Policy

STATE PRIORITIES

Transportation & Infrastructure

- The completion of the Highway 41 corridor as four lanes from Keokuk to Dubuque. The corridor has seen great progress in recent years. Hearing completion, these efforts must be maintained.
- Continued funding for the Commercial Service Vertical Infrastructure, Airport Improvement Program, and Air Service Development. Available funding for Southeast Iowa Regional Airport provides for safe airport operations, improvements, and marketing opportunities to include local small business advertising for Southeast Iowa Regional Airport.
- Funding for rail service improvements into industrial parks and sites appropriate for rail projects. Iowa Department of Transportation funding should continue to recognize that freight rail systems provide critical infrastructure for transporting commodities and other commercial goods.
- Joining Illinois and Missouri in support of levee system improvements. We urge the Legislature and Governor to support the comprehensive plan for flood control on the Mississippi and improvement of the levee system to a "500 Year" level of protection.
- Proactive legislation to reduce nitrate and phosphorus levels in Iowa's streams through voluntary compliance and additional investment. Safe, reliable water infrastructure is important to numerous economic sectors and attempts to preempt judicial action and court orders are urgent. Enhanced revenues should be shared with communities upgrading point source infrastructure.

LOCAL PRIORITIES

Business-friendly environment in which Greater Burlington can grow to that end, the following priorities:

- Even as budget challenges continue, the financial resources committed to preparing and implementing improvements remain inadequate.
- School districts and the committees in which they serve. Business Education working quality rates for area employees and career growth for students.
- Provided a key role in supporting Greater Burlington's economic development efforts.
- Well-structured TIP management program provides job creation and enhances the tax base.
- Using discipline could delay the Iowa Legislature's efforts for restrictive voters.
- Providing TIP for the public buildings should be discouraged, with possible exceptions provided in the Business Plan. This plan would forecast valuation release targets and provide all funding.
- Addressing shortages. Iowa must be proactive in providing a diverse array of housing options to defray the development costs for new housing, redevelopment of existing stock provides the needed investments, increase the local allocation of hotel/motel tax to fund the legislation to increase taxes.
- Property tax reform causing reductions in revenues for municipal jurisdictions. The community and municipal leaders in seeking meaningful sources of alternative revenue.

Visit GreaterBurlington.com to view the complete 2024 *Focusing on the Issues* Policy Agenda.



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