

January 2024



# THE PARTNERSHIP

GREATER BURLINGTON PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER - VOL. 104 NO. 01





## GEARED UP FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

by Della Schmidt

The Greater Burlington Partnership is geared up to lead the community through the opportunities in the year ahead. Through the collaborative efforts of our four dynamic divisions, we will continue to strengthen the economic vitality of the communities that we serve.

Enthusiasm brims as we gear up for the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant expansion and prepare to unveil innovative programming aligned with the Partnering for the Future 5-year priorities—Grow Workforce, Grow Business, and Grow Population.

- The goal of Grow Workforce is to build a resilient and dynamic workforce, while concurrently attracting fresh companies and fostering the growth of local businesses. Recognizing there is no one-size-fits all solution to workforce growth, The Partnership will implement a comprehensive approach that caters to the diverse needs of the business community. This involves implementing various strategies, such as educating and engaging local students, enticing former residents to return, and retaining the current skilled workforce.
- Growing the workforce requires good jobs. Whether it entails cultivating new businesses or prioritizing the retention and expansion of existing ones, both avenues are crucial for ensuring the continued vitality of our communities.
- Sustained business attraction plays a pivotal role in driving economic expansion and generating employment opportunities. The goal of Grow Business is to increase dollars spent in Greater Burlington. In today's era of online shopping, it is crucial to not only attract new shoppers but also retain our existing ones. With this in mind, The Partnership's comprehensive strategy revolves around leveraging the community's status as the regional shopping hub for small communities, enticing regional shoppers, and attracting visitors from out of state. To achieve these goals, The Partnership has developed a series of targeted initiatives specifically designed to combat retail leakage, stimulate greater spending, and generate more visitor stays within Greater Burlington.
- The goal of Grow Population is to attract and welcome new individuals to Greater Burlington to fill both current and future employment opportunities. As the local businesses grapple with the foremost challenge of workforce scarcity, addressing this concern takes precedence. To drive population growth, the community must possess enhanced infrastructure and additional amenities that render Greater Burlington a highly sought-after destination for relocation. The Partnership will be implementing initiatives that have been strategically devised to enhance the overall quality of life in Greater Burlington, while showcasing the community as an appealing haven for individuals seeking a new home, rewarding career prospects, and an ideal environment for raising a family.

Looking ahead, we are excited to deepen our engagement with the community, fostering partnerships that not only sustain but enhance our impact. The commitment of our stakeholders ensures that the Greater Burlington Partnership remains a driving force in propelling our community towards sustained growth, resilience, and continued success.

Thank you to our investors for your unwavering dedication to elevating the economic vitality and quality of life in Greater Burlington. Here's to a future of continued collaboration, shared success, and an enduring legacy of progress and prosperity.



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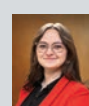
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**POSTMASTER:** send address changes to Greater Burlington Partnership (USPS 001-692) 610 North Fourth Street, Suite 200, Burlington, Iowa 52601.



## The Greater Burlington Partnership: A Fresh Look for a Unified Future

Change is on the horizon for The Greater Burlington Partnership, and it comes in the form of a revitalized visual identity. While our current logo has been a stalwart companion on our journey, we believe it's time for a transformation that mirrors the dynamism of our organization.

The catalyst for this evolution emerged last year when Downtown Partners, Inc. secured a \$15,000 grant from the State of Iowa to collaborate with Arnett Muldrow & Associates to rebrand Downtown Burlington. As this exciting initiative unfolded, Ben Muldrow proposed an additional gem to the project—an updated Partnership logo. Intrigued and eager to explore the possibilities, we embarked on a creative journey with Ben.

The result was more than just a logo, it was a celebration of the diversity within our organization. In recognizing that each division pursues the same overarching goals but through distinct approaches, we aimed to preserve the cohesion of The Partnership while granting individual identities to each division.

Our new logos reflect this harmonious diversity: Chamber of Commerce: Partnership Red; Convention & Visitors Bureau: Rich Electric Blue; Downtown Partners, Inc.: Summer Green; Economic Development: Yale Blue

These vibrant hues not only symbolize the uniqueness of each division but also create a visual tapestry that weaves them together under the banner of The Greater Burlington Partnership.

This revitalization isn't just about aesthetics; it's a strategic move towards reinforcing the shared vision while allowing each division to stand tall in its achievements. The transition to these new logos marks a pivotal moment in our journey—a moment where unity meets individuality.

As we embark on this exciting change, we invite our community and partners to join us in embracing the fresh energy that comes with a new look. The Greater Burlington Partnership is evolving, and we're doing it together—one vibrant logo at a time.



### 2024 Board Chairs

Each year the Board of Directors is tasked with setting the policies and goals of the Greater Burlington Partnership. The organization is unique in structure and includes the Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development, Convention & Visitors Bureau, and Downtown Partners, Inc., all under the collective umbrella of the Greater Burlington Partnership. For this community, the collaboration has proven to be an effective and great strategy.

To accomplish this task, each division has a separate Board of Directors, segregated funds and a unique mission statement guiding their way.

During their one-year term, division Chairs represent the organization at a variety of functions and collectively meet to ensure the organization is running efficiently and effectively. When you have an opportunity, please thank these individuals

for their time and dedication to the organization and the community.

In 2024, the Chairs of the divisions are (from left to right):

- Brien Reynolds, Great River Entertainment, LLC  
Convention & Visitors Bureau Steering Committee Chair
- Bob Huffman, Huffman's Farm & Home  
Economic Development Board Chair
- Todd Ackerman, World Insurance Associates LLC  
Downtown Partners, Inc. Board Chair
- Melinda Bickel, Bickel's Cycling & Fitness  
Chamber of Commerce Board Chair

# Year in Review

The Greater Burlington Partnership's 2023 Annual Report will be distributed at the Annual Dinner on January 26, and in the mail in late January.

The Annual Report features quantifiable objectives for each of the four Partnership divisions as well as facts about the organization. It is important that the organization be held accountable to its members, investors and stakeholders.

We encourage Chamber members to share the publication with your employees and display it in your waiting room.

If you are not the primary contact for your business, you may view the digital version online at [GreaterBurlington.com](http://GreaterBurlington.com).



**Pictured L to R, 2023 Board Chairs:**

- Yair Carvajal, Queso's Mexican Bar & Grill
- Tim Lundgren, Farm Bureau Financial Services - Tim Lundgren
- Mercedes Ponce, Titan Broadcasting & Digital Group
- Eric Benne, Two Rivers Bank & Trust

Thank you to all who volunteer and are a part of The Partnership. Exciting things are happening, and you are helping to make that possible!

## 2024 Leadership

### Chamber of Commerce Officers

- Chairperson – Melinda Bickel, Bickel's Cycling & Fitness
- Chairperson-Elect – Craig Smith, Sterzing Food Company
- Treasurer – Cheryl Plank, Hope Haven Area Development Corp  
(a division of Imagine the Possibilities, Inc.)
- Past-Chair – Tim Lundgren, Farm Bureau Financial Services, Tim Lundgren

### Economic Development Officers

- Chairperson - Bob Huffman, Huffman's Farm & Home
- Chairperson - Elect -Tina McCulloch, Big River Resources
- Past Chairperson - Eric Benne, Two Rivers Bank & Trust
- Treasurer - Bryan Bross, Klingner & Associates

### Convention & Visitors Bureau Officers

- Chairperson - Brien Reynolds, Great River Entertainment, LLC

### Downtown Partners, Inc. Officers

- Chairperson - Todd Ackerman, World Insurance Associates LLC
- Chairperson - Elect - Kathy Bentz, The Busted Cup Brewhouse
- Past Chairperson - Mercedes Ponce, Titan Broadcasting & Digital Group
- Treasurer - Tom Burch, Farmers & Merchants Bank & Trust

# MEET THE NEW LEADERSHIP



## Chamber of Commerce, Chairman Melinda Bickel, Bickel's Cycling & Fitness

**Goal:** I look forward to the implementation of the goals outlined in the Partnering for the Future Campaign. With a focus on population stability and growth, commerce and tourism, and business and workforce development, we should all be very encouraged by the various efforts underway. While there are many aspects to building and sustaining community, if we remain diligent in our focus and efficient with our resources, we will be quite effective in making our little corner of the world a safe, productive, and prosperous place to call home.

**Why:** I enjoy being around people and am a firm believer in community. Everyone has a story to tell, and I enjoy the opportunity of being a part of these collective journeys. I am happy to be a part of a team dedicated to continuing Greater Burlington's reputation as a growing center of commerce, industry, education, health care, and entertainment.



## Economic Development, Chairman Bob Huffman, Huffman's Farm & Home

**Goal:** I am honored to be your Grow Greater Burlington Chair for 2024. The future looks bright, and we are looking forward to building upon the momentum of the past several years successes with new wins in 2024.

**Why:** There are always challenges out there to navigate, but we have a great team led by Jeremy Hess, and partnerships with many different community leaders and groups which will help us overcome obstacles as they arise. I have every confidence 2024 will be another banner year for Grow Greater Burlington, and I thank you for giving me the opportunity to Chair this great organization.



## Convention & Visitors Bureau, Chairman Brien Reynolds, Great River Entertainment, LLC

**Goal:** To help shine a light on Greater Burlington, showcasing why and how we will be great partners for future events and tourism. Burlington is and needs to be recognized as the premier location in Southeast Iowa for everything from conventions to sporting tournaments. We will tell the story of Burlington fostering growth in our local economy and community.

**Why:** I am fortunate to have relocated to Burlington from the East Coast and quickly fell in love with its charm. From the walkability of Downtown to the beauty of the riverfront to the mid-west charm of the people, I knew I found my home. I hope to give back to the community that so graciously welcomed me.



## Downtown Partners, Inc., Chairman Todd Ackerman, World Insurance Associates LLC

**Goal:** As the Tiger project comes to a close, my goal for Downtown Partners, Inc. is to establish the newly rolled out Downtown Partners, Inc. brand not only in our community but surrounding communities as well. With the amount of new businesses being established in Downtown Burlington, we should be a destination spot to gather, shop, eat and drink. Change and growth have to be constants in order to keep moving forward. I am excited about the opportunities Downtown Partners, Inc. will continue to push forward to serve our community.

**Why:** When my family moved to Burlington 10 years ago, the Downtown area was not very impressive. The transformation has been incredible to watch, and I have enjoyed being a small part of the change. My hope is to continue the transformation and make Downtown Burlington a sustainable, thriving district to work, live and play.



# GREATER BURLINGTON PARTNERSHIP

## 2024 PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA

The Greater Burlington Partnership is the identity for the overall organization which includes the Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development, Convention & Visitors Bureau, and Downtown Partners, Inc. Each division has a separate mission but shares one vision: to ensure Greater Burlington is a growing regional center of commerce, industry, education, health care, entertainment and culture which provides a great place to live and work.

The Greater Burlington Partnership will focus on the following five (5) priorities, listed in no particular order:

- **Workforce & Education:** The future lies with those who 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.
- **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.
- 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.

*A complete 2024 Public Policy Agenda is available at [GreaterBurlington.com](http://GreaterBurlington.com).*

## KNOW YOUR 2024 LOCAL ELECTED CITY OFFICIALS

### City of Burlington

Burlington City Hall 319-753-8124

Jon Billups, [billupsj@burlingtoniowa.org](mailto:billupsj@burlingtoniowa.org)

Antonio Bailey, [baileya@burlingtoniowa.org](mailto:baileya@burlingtoniowa.org)

Lynda Graham-Murray, [murrayl@burlingtoniowa.org](mailto:murrayl@burlingtoniowa.org)

Tim Scott, [scottt@burlingtoniowa.org](mailto:scottt@burlingtoniowa.org)

Kay Weiss: [weissk@burlingtoniowa.org](mailto:weissk@burlingtoniowa.org)

### City of West Burlington

West Burlington City Hall: 319-752-5451

Mayor – Ron Teater – [teaterr@westburlington.org](mailto:teaterr@westburlington.org)

Ringo Covert – [covertr@westburlington.org](mailto:covertr@westburlington.org)

Andy Crouner – [crounera@westburlington.org](mailto:crounera@westburlington.org)

Therese Lees – [leest@westburlington.org](mailto:leest@westburlington.org)

John Johnson – [johnsonj@westburlington.org](mailto:johnsonj@westburlington.org)

Melanie Young – [youngm@westburlington.org](mailto:youngm@westburlington.org)





## SOUTHEAST IOWA DAYS

DES MOINES - FEBRUARY 7 & 8



SCAN ME

Join the delegation of Southeast Iowa business and community leaders in Des Moines on February 7 & 8. Share in the conversations regarding the 2024 legislative priorities and hear the latest news from the State of Iowa.

**Who should attend:** Any chamber member interested in advocating for pro-business legislation and 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 and legislative reception, plus numerous Q&A sessions highlighting Southeast Iowa's key issues. Scan the QR Code for registration.

**Travel details:** Participants are responsible for their own travel. Lodging arrangements can be made by calling Embassy Suites at 515-244-1700 and mention "Southeast Iowa Days." A block of rooms is reserved until January 8.

For more information and to RSVP, contact Steven Brody.

## CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FRIDAY FORUMS

HELD ON THE THIRD FRIDAY OF THE MONTH  
DECEMBER THROUGH MARCH

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

On January 19, the forum will feature a panel discussion with State Legislators.



**Representative  
Taylor R. Collins**



**Senator  
Mark S. Lofgren**

**UPCOMING FORUM DATES:** February 16, March 15

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

## SMALL BUSINESS WELLNESS PRESENTATION WITH GREAT RIVER HEALTH

**Do you own a small business? Do you want your employees to be healthy and productive at work? Would you like to offer your employees a way to improve their health, but don't have a big budget to do those things?**

If you answered yes to any of those questions, "Wellness for Small Business" from the Occupational Health Clinic at Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center could be the right fit for your company. This ready-to-go wellness program will provide online webinars, challenges, personal trackers, and more! Built in rewards and encouraging e-mails will not only increase participation, but also motivate them to look at their health and lifestyle behaviors. A simple and easy solution that is affordable and stress-free comes with no contract required.

Attend an informational presentation on January 24 at 12 PM in the Winegard Room to learn about the program outline, reward structure, online portal, and pricing. Please rsvp to Tara McAlister at [tmcalister@greatriverhealth.org](mailto:tmcalister@greatriverhealth.org).

## PUBLIC OFFICIALS MEET & GREET

**YOU ARE INVITED TO THE PUBLIC OFFICIALS MEET & GREET  
JANUARY 9 AT 4:30 - 6:30 PM | HOWARD JOHNSON BALLROOM**



SCAN ME

Join the Greater Burlington Partnership for the annual Public Officials Meet & Greet. This event is a great opportunity exclusively for Chamber of Commerce Members to meet and greet local leaders, elected and non-elected, from the City of Burlington, City of West Burlington, Des Moines County, and local schools. Light appetizers will be provided.

To RSVP contact Steven Brody at 319-208-0054, [sbrody@greaterburlington.com](mailto:sbrody@greaterburlington.com). Or scan the QR Code to Register.

**PREMIER SPONSOR:**



# GREATER BURLINGTON PARTNERSHIP 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL 5<sup>TH</sup> AND 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE CAREER FAIR



Last month the Greater Burlington Partnership celebrated and hosted its 20th Annual 5th and 8th Grade Career Fair at Southeastern Community College. Although it has worn many hats and looked very different over the years, the program is well-known by local school districts and businesses, and has built quite a reputation for itself. This year, over 900 5th and 8th grade students from Des Moines County schools participated in the events. To top it off, more than 50 speakers from a variety of local businesses, organizations, and companies participated in the career exploration event. Mike Harris, General Superintendent at Carl A. Nelson has been a returning speaker at the event. He commented that he attends the event as a speaker because “Finding qualified

workers for the trades has become more and more difficult over the years. Our future is finding kids interested in building and showing them what a rewarding career choice this can be. There are countless opportunities in all aspects of our business, and we love to have the ability to share this with the younger generation through programs like this.”

Harris is just one of the veteran speakers and the event gained about ten first time speakers this year as well. The Greater Burlington Partnership is proud to bring this career exploration event to local 5th and 8th graders and is thankful to have these fantastic education and business partners who care about the young people in our community.



## BUSINESS afterHOURS

**Parties Unlimited/Yash Management**  
413 Valley St, January 11, 5 - 7 PM

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



# DOWNTOWN PARTNERS, INC. LOOKS TOWARDS SPRING EVENTS



## A Very Vintage Market

Vendor applications for A Very Vintage Market will be opening soon at [GreaterBurlington.com](http://GreaterBurlington.com). The market will take place on Saturday, July 15. Follow the A Very Vintage Market Facebook page for news about the 20th annual event.

Sponsorship opportunities available, reach out to Marty Mogk at [mmogk@greaterburlington.com](mailto:mmogk@greaterburlington.com).

## Valentine's Day Story Walk

February 10, 10 AM - 2 PM

Downtown Partners, Inc. has partnered with the Iowa State Extension Office and P.I.E.C.E.S. 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, 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.

Please contact the Greater Burlington Partnership for more information.



## Jefferson Street Farmers Market Season

Vendor applications for Jefferson Street Farmers Market will be opening soon. The market will begin in May and run through September. Follow the Jefferson Street Farmers Market Facebook page for updates on the 2024 market.

Sponsorship opportunities available, reach out to Marty Mogk at [mmogk@greaterburlington.com](mailto:mmogk@greaterburlington.com).

## COFFEE WITH THE CHAMBER – January 31



Chamber members are invited to the next Coffee with the Chamber on January 31, from 8 - 9 AM in the Winegard Room at the Greater Burlington Partnership offices. Chamber Executive Director Steven Brody and Membership & Guest Services Director Marty Mogk would like to meet with members to share the latest Chamber news and answer questions regarding Chamber membership benefits.

Please come to Coffee with the Chamber and explore how to maximize your Chamber investment.

*RSVP to Marty Mogk, [mmogk@greaterburlington.com](mailto:mmogk@greaterburlington.com)*



# STEM Fest

Southeast Iowa Regional STEM Festival



## SAVE THE DATE!

SATURDAY

# FEB 10

# 10AM-1PM

SCC CAMPUS  
WEST BURLINGTON



SOUTHEASTERN  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE





The **Greater Burlington Leadership** class of 2023-24 is excited to announce the “Dodging Poverty” dodgeball tournament supporting Burlington Building Bridges. This tournament is scheduled for April 13.

Teams may consist of 6 - 8 players. Registration is \$200 for adult teams and \$150 for youth teams.

All proceeds will be donated to the Burlington Building Bridges organization, which supports our local community members struggling with poverty. Stay tuned for the registration link and sponsorship opportunities for this event!

We hope to see you there!



Have you missed All Things Greater Burlington? Cray Law Firm discussed celebrating 100 years. The Busted Cup Brewhouse shared about their new location in Downtown Burlington. Beckman Heritage Farms enlightened on their distinction of 175 years in operation. Stay tuned for upcoming interviews with Dr. Michael Ash with Southeastern Community College and Dr. Michael McCoy with Great River Health.

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, sbrody@greaterburlington.com

## Community Profile and Member Directory: Meet our new partner, Town Square Publications *Get Your Business Noticed*

The Chamber of Commerce has partnered with Town Square Publications to produce the full-color printed 2024 - 25 Chamber Community Profile and Membership Directory. Tell your story to thousands of business owners, residents, and visitors. The Burlington/West Burlington Chamber of Commerce Community Profile and Membership Directory is the best way to reach that market.

Connect with thousands of visitors, new residents, and fellow Chamber and community members to help grow your business and market your services to our community. Along with the printed publication, the online and mobile editions will be accessible from the Chamber's website, so your story will be shared 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. Do not miss this opportunity to promote your business!

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. Alan will be based in Burlington to personally connect with and discuss ad sales with Chamber members. To reach Alan, email him at aflinton@tspubs.com.

**Membership directory listing will be limited to Chamber members in good standing as of March 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!

## City of Mediapolis

Mediapolislwa.org, 510 Main St, Mediapolis  
Lindsey Siegle, City Clerk, 319-394-3125, mepocity@mepotelco.net

## The Burlington Apartments

TheHistoricBurlington.com/, 206 N 3rd St  
Libby Bowen, Property Manager, 319-758-9014  
theburlingtonapts@millenniahousing.com

This historic building maintains all the character, charm and splendor of the grand hotel it once was. This convenient location makes your apartment home feel like a real treasure!

## Thyme & Spice Company

ThymeAndSpiceCompany.com, 218 Jefferson St, Ste 1D  
Ashlyn & Travis Long, Owners, 319-752-7442  
thymeandspicecompany@gmail.com

A family-owned spice and tea shop with over 300 herbs, spices, teas, and specialty blends. House-made fudge, hand-shaken teas, Kombucha on tap and much, much more!

## T&M Handyman Services, LLC

Tony Young, Owner/Handyman, 319-671-2071  
r.s.ralston05@gmail.com

Offering handyman services in Greater Burlington. Call for details!

For information on membership, contact Marty Mogk.

# RIBBON CUTTINGS & CELEBRATORY EVENTS



**FUNCITY COURTSIDE GRAND OPENING**



**FUNCITY COURTS GRAND OPENING**



**DES MOINES COUNTY CONSERVATION  
HICKORY BEND CONSERVATION AREA  
GRAND OPENING**

**General Contractor**  
**CONSTRUCTION**

- Design
- Engineering
- Construction

2204 West Mt. Pleasant Street  
West Burlington, IA 52655  
319-752-7154  
ron@sgconstructco.com  
www.sgconstructco.com

**Want to See  
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**?**

Contact:  
**Marty Mogk**  
mmogk@greaterburlington.com

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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.

### Dr. John Thurman Named Iowa Family Physician of the Year

West Burlington, Iowa, November 21, 2023 – Dr. John Thurman, Family Practice, Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center, Fort Madison, was named the 2023 Iowa Family Physician of the Year by the Iowa Academy of Family Physicians. Dr. Thurman was honored at an award ceremony in Des Moines on November 17, 2023.

Dr. Thurman was nominated by patients Curt and Ginnie Swarm who had this to say: "He's an excellent doctor, great communicator and motivator, has a wonderful sense of humor, and really cares for each and every one of his patients, whom he considers personal friends."

An accomplished seven-year, active-duty U.S. Army officer with combat experience and double board-certified family medicine physician, Dr. Thurman earned his Bachelor of Science degree in systems engineering from the United States Military Academy (USMA) at West Point and his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from ATSU's Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine,

Kirksville, Missouri. He completed a family medicine residency at MacNeal Hospital, Berwyn, Illinois, and was nominated chief resident in 2014. Prior to his current position, he worked at Great River Health in Burlington, Iowa, and at the University of Chicago Medicine in Chicago.

### KPI Concepts Acquires Accent Industries

KPI Concepts continues to lead the retail fixture industry by manufacturing store fixtures for major retailers. KPI Concept's sustained success in this industry has led to the acquisition of Accent Industries. Since 1975, Accent Industries has been a respected manufacturer of checklanes and product display fixtures for retailers nationwide.

For over 40 years, KPI Concepts has manufactured store fixtures and fabricated metal for some of the leading retail brands in the country. KPI Concepts' expertise is in helping our commercial customers bring their stores and buildings to life through store fixtures, check lanes, product displays, shelving, and graphics.

# JANUARY

## January

### EVENTS

2 – Drop-In Tech Help  
Burlington Public Library, 3 - 4 PM  
Burlington.lib.ia.us

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

6 – That's Yesterday's News  
Burlington Public Library, 10 AM  
Burlington.lib.ia.us

9 - 25 – January Gallery Show:  
Tattoo Artists  
Art Center of Burlington, times vary  
BTownArt.com

9 – Drop-In Tech Help  
Burlington Public Library, 3 - 4 PM  
Burlington.lib.ia.us

9 – Public Officials Reception  
Howard Johnson by Wyndham  
4:30 - 6:30 PM  
GreaterBurlington.com

11 – Business After Hours  
Parties Unlimited/Yash Management  
5 - 7 PM  
GreaterBurlington.com

13 – Burling-Con  
Westland Mall, 10 am  
QuadCityCon.com

13 – Revel in Red  
Capitol Performing Arts Center, 7:30 PM  
LiveAtTheCapitol.com

13 – Jazz Night/All American Jazz  
Collective  
Art Center of Burlington, 6:30 PM  
BTownArt.com

15 – Frost Fair  
Burlington Public Library, 9 am  
Burlington.lib.ia.us

15 – MLK Day Tribute Concert  
Southeastern Community College, 11 AM  
SCClowa.edu

16 – Drop-In Tech Help  
Burlington Public Library, 3 - 4 PM  
Burlington.lib.ia.us

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

19 – Friday Forums  
Greater Burlington Partnership, 8 AM  
GreaterBurlington.com

19 – 22 – Winter Book Sale  
Burlington Public Library, 9 AM  
Burlington.lib.ia.us

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

19 – Opening Reception: Tattoo Artist  
Group Show  
Art Center of Burlington, 5 - 8 PM  
BTownArt.com

20 – 2024 Showcase  
Legacy Theater, Carthage, IL, 7 PM  
TheLegacyTheater.com

23 – Drop-In Tech Help  
Burlington Public Library, 3 - 4 PM  
Burlington.lib.ia.us

26 – Annual Dinner  
Catfish Bend Convention & Event Center  
6 PM  
GreaterBurlington.com

27 – Duke Oursler & the American Dream/  
Ghost of Judas  
Capitol Performing Arts Center, 7:30 PM  
LiveAtTheCapitol.com

28 – 2024 Wedding & Event Expo  
Catfish Bend Convention & Event Center  
11 AM - 2 PM  
BurlingtonRadio.com

31 – Coffee with the Chamber  
Greater Burlington Partnership, 8 - 9 AM  
GreaterBurlington.com

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## BURLINGTON COMIC & TOY SHOW

January 13, 10 AM - 3 PM

Comics, toys, games, cosplay and all things pop culture headline this free, day-long event at Westland Mall.

Check the Facebook event for cosplay showcase and video game tournament schedules.

This event is free and open to the public. For more information, visit: [quadcity.com](http://quadcity.com).

## REVEL IN RED AT THE CAPITOL

January 13, 7:30PM

With this six-piece rock band, they have most all of the bases covered. The stage presence, the skill, the ability to improvise... all with the sense to keep you singing and dancing all night.

At any given performance, you may hear music spanning from the 70's through today. All of the rock anthems and classics you can't resist. From Prince, Van Halen, Boston, Night Ranger, Bon Jovi, Journey & REO, to Pink, Bruno Mars, Ed Sheeran & My Chemical Romance.

For more information, follow the Art Center of Burlington on Facebook or visit: [BTownArt.com](http://BTownArt.com).

## 2024 WEDDING & EVENT EXPO

January 28, 11 AM - 2 PM

Who says planning a wedding has to be stressful? The Pritchard Broadcasting Bridal & Event Expo brings newlyweds and the top event professionals in the area together under one roof for one exciting day of wedding and event planning. Find the perfect photographer to capture every moment of your special day. Choose who will bake the all-important cake, and find the caterer your guests will rave about. Check out a variety of musical entertainment options.

## ANNUAL BALD EAGLE WATCH

January 13, 10 AM-12 PM

Discover that a mantle isn't just the thing above your fireplace at the annual Eagle Watch program hosted by Des Moines County Conservation! Join us on January 13, starting at 10 AM at the Port of Burlington, where DMCC Volunteer Lori Carnes will lead an immersive eagle presentation, sharing her passion and expertise. Afterward, caravan to Lock and Dam 18 for an eagle observation session, a short 15-minute drive from the Port of Burlington. Feel free to bring your binoculars or borrow some on-site.

This family-friendly event wraps up at noon and welcomes participants of all ages. No registration or fees required. Dress for the weather and stay informed about any changes or cancellations by calling 319-753-5808.

## WEDDING EXPO

January 21, 11 AM - 2 PM

Step into a realm of matrimonial magic at the Cornerstone Wedding & Event Center, as we proudly present our exquisite Wedding Expo from 11 am to 2 pm. For those seeking an elevated experience, our VIP tickets, priced at \$10, unlock a world of privileges. Enjoy exclusive early access from 11 am to 12 pm, where you can explore the venue in tranquility and engage with vendors before the general crowd arrives. For more information visit [TheCornerstoneIA.com/wedding-expo](http://TheCornerstoneIA.com/wedding-expo).

## THE RINK

January 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20, 26, 27

FREE SKATE RENTALS at the Burlington Riverfront Entertainment, Memorial Auditorium.

For more details including hours of operation please visit: [BurlingtonRiverfront.org](http://BurlingtonRiverfront.org).

Submit member information, to  
Brenda Levitt at [blevitt@greaterburlington.com](mailto:blevitt@greaterburlington.com)



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