

July 2024



THE PARTNERSHIP

GREATER BURLINGTON PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER - VOL. 104 NO. 07





TO EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON

by Melinda Bickel

This is one of my most favorite times of year. The temperatures are warm, the skies are sunny, and it just feels good to be outside. You will find no shortage of biking, fishing, golfing, and baseball (among many other activities) during these summer months. Be it sitting outside a local downtown restaurant, taking in an art show, or enjoying a Burlington Municipal Band concert at the park, there are many wonderful opportunities to support local businesses and engage in the community with your family, friends, and neighbors.

To everything there is a season and with that comes change, be it the weather outdoors or within an organization. The timeframe in which we find ourselves in a new season greatly influences our reactions, including those of apprehension as well as curiosity as to what comes next. At The Partnership, we find ourselves in such a season.

Upon receiving Della Schmidt's resignation in late April, the Greater Burlington Partnership's Joint Powers Board was tasked to form a Search Committee to appoint a new President and CEO. Per the recommendation of the Search Committee, YGM Total Resource Campaigns has been hired to facilitate the recruitment process. Through a fair, competitive, and credentialed process, the Partnership's Joint Powers Board looks forward to announcing a new President and CEO by late summer.

I have been grateful for Della's support, guiding the Division Directors, staff, and Board of Directors through this transition up through her last day. The Partnership is in very good standing, both financially and organizationally, and that has greatly eased the demands of this hiring process. We have an excellent, self-directed team that continues to move ahead, conducting business as usual, including implementation of Partnering for the Future initiatives.

Again, to everything there is a season. In the days ahead, we will be busy welcoming people from all over the world to events including RAGBRAI, A Very Vintage Market, and Viking River Cruise dockings which create occasions for us to showcase our little corner we call home. A place rich in cultural history spanning 200 years, the Greater Burlington area has much to offer and many reasons to be proud. As we go through this time of change, may we embrace the new prospects ahead recognizing that a bright future is upon us.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS: Price is \$24, which is included in annual events fees. Non-members: \$4 per issue. Periodicals postage paid at Burlington, Iowa.
POSTMASTER: The Partnership is published monthly by the Greater Burlington Partnership 610 North 4th Street, Suite 200, Burlington, Iowa 52601.
POSTMASTER: send address changes to Greater Burlington Partnership (USPS 001-692) 610 North 4th Street, Suite 200, Burlington, Iowa 52601.



ON THE COVER

RAGBRAI IN GREATER BURLINGTON

RAGBRAI's Great Ride Across Iowa began in 1973 as a challenge between two Des Moines Register employees. The idea was simple: Ride a bicycle across the state and document the journey with newspaper articles. After the Register employees invited the public to ride along, a total of 114 riders completed the journey from Sioux City to Davenport, and the annual ride was born.

With the tradition of riders ending their journey by dipping their tires in the Mighty Mississippi, Burlington became an obvious choice in subsequent years as a route-ending destination.

In 2024, RAGBRAI returns to the Greater Burlington area, with the culmination of the hilliest ride route in its storied history.



ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR GREAT LEADERS TODAY AND TOMORROW

The Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce that applications are still open for the 2024-2025 Greater Burlington Leadership program, an unparalleled professional development series. This annual program spans nine months, offering both seasoned and emerging leaders a comprehensive view of civic responsibilities. Participants will have the chance to hear from a diverse array of local leaders who shape our community and take exclusive behind-the-scenes tours of industries in Des Moines County.

The Greater Burlington Leadership program is designed to foster both personal and professional growth. It delves into personal and interpersonal communication skills and provides a unique opportunity to build a robust network of business leaders.

Participants in previous classes have:

- Explored different personality styles and learned strategies for effective collaboration.
- Toured local businesses and manufacturers such as Silgan Containers; KPI Concepts, LLC; and CNH Industrial America, LLC gaining insights into their growth strategies and how they tackle challenges like workforce shortages.
- Engaged in one-on-one networking sessions with area legislators to discuss key business and community issues.
- Learned about current initiatives and future trends within the education system, focusing on workforce development.

Don't miss this chance to elevate your leadership skills and connect with influential community leaders. Apply now to join the next cohort of great leaders in Greater Burlington!

Apply by July 15 to be considered for Greater Burlington Leadership class of 2024 - 2025.



APPLY

INTERN CONNECTION PROGRAM



On June 11, the Greater Burlington Partnership held its first Intern Connection Luncheon. The event welcomed 16 interns from member businesses who engaged in networking, team-building activities, and sessions focused on goal-setting and professional development.

Enroll your intern in our Intern Connection Program today! For a copy of the Intern Insider or for additional details, please email Teli Fedele.





As Burlington prepares to host the Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa on July 27, the RAGBRAI Organizing Committee is calling on residents to volunteer and help roll out the red carpet for the thousands of riders visiting Greater Burlington for the first time. The arrival of RAGBRAI is a time for the community to shine, and volunteers are crucial to the event's success.

Volunteering opportunities abound, starting well before the tour rolls into town. Thousands of riders will descend on Greater Burlington on July 19, where they will park their vehicles before heading west across the state to start their journey. Volunteers will help greet riders, provide directions and information, and check in those with long-term parking spots.

As the event date approaches, the need for volunteers becomes even more critical, and there are countless ways residents can get involved. One of the most exciting volunteer opportunities will involve assisting at the dip point along the riverfront. Here, riders will complete their journey with a cherished RAGBRAI tradition - dipping their tires in the Mighty Mississippi. Volunteers are needed to help coordinate this process, ensuring safety and organization. Additionally, volunteers with a knack for photography are encouraged to help capture this significant moment, with the riders' own cameras and phones, and create lasting memories of their RAGBRAI experience and their introduction to Greater Burlington.

Volunteers will have the chance to meet people from all walks of life, from across the country and around the world, and help showcase Greater Burlington's hospitality.

Residents interested in volunteering can sign up through the RAGBRAI Burlington website, BurlingtonRAGBRAI.com.

Contact Chris Gram, cgram@greaterburlington.com, for more information.





Coffee with the Chamber is going on the road!

Chamber members are invited to the next Coffee with the Chamber on July 24, from 8 - 9 AM at The Beancounter Coffeehouse & Drinkery, located at 212 Jefferson Street in Downtown Burlington. Interim Business Engagement Manager Melissa Jones and other Partnership staff 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, support a local business and explore how to maximize your Chamber investment.

RSVP to Melissa Jones, mjones@greaterburlington.com.



**GREATER BURLINGTON
CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU**
A DIVISION OF THE GREATER BURLINGTON PARTNERSHIP

NEW MERCH AT THE WELCOME CENTER

Looking for that perfect souvenir or need information on how to spend a day in Burlington? Head on down to the Port of Burlington Welcome Center! Be sure to check out the new Downtown Burlington and Snake Alley shirts! Come in and stock up on brochures and maps for that next road trip. There are even weekly specials on highlighted merchandise. Enjoy the beautiful views of the Mississippi River and Great River Bridge while visiting. Open at 10 AM daily.

Viking boat dockings will bring an influx of visitors to Greater Burlington beginning in July. As passengers head downtown, they will be greeted by friendly faces ready and able to answer questions about Greater Burlington, its history, unique attractions, and must-visit restaurants and shops. The Greater Burlington Convention and Visitors Bureau is seeking local volunteers who like meeting interesting folks from far off places and are willing to spend some time in beautiful Downtown Burlington.

There are 10 dockings scheduled for this season, subject to change, which mean many opportunities to be a part of such an amazing and fun-filled experience.

Contact Kaylea Felland at 319-752-8731 or kfelland@greaterburlington.com.





2024 - 2025

ENTREPRENEUR COMPETITION NOW OPEN!

The Eastern border of our entire region has many names... The Mighty Miss, Big Muddy, Old Man River, and the Father of Waters. Citizens and visitors alike are drawn to it year around. Ask any visiting relative or weekend guest, and they will all confirm they want to go hang out by the river. While we are blessed with some longtime favorites such as The Drake, LLC or Martini's Grille, our friends and neighbors long to do something more down by the water.

The Greater Burlington Partnership would love to help invest in new businesses and ideas that help our community showcase perhaps our most treasured asset. Our Entrepreneur Competition for 2024 and 2025 will all have an "on the river" focus. \$15,000 in prize money each year to help launch what we hope is your small business dream.

Your focus could be food, fishing, river cruises, music, rentals, etc. if it's on or near our waterfront, you need to take action. Let's get your plans on paper and start moving forward. Registration opens July 1, with important deadline dates to meet for future months to follow. The Partnership will help connect you with important resources including our outstanding Small Business Administration liaison Janine Clover, as well as other local funding sources or government agencies. You can do this, and The Partnership can help.

Step 1 is to register at GreaterBurlington.com.

Email or call Jeremy Hess for more information.
jhess@greaterburlington.com 319-208-0050.



ANNUAL CHAMBER GOLF CLASSIC

August 15, 10 AM AT BURLINGTON GOLF CLUB

Thank you to This Year's Sponsors!

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- Social Hour:** 3E Electrical Engineering and Equipment Co
- Putting Contest:** KPI Concepts, LLC
- Driving Range:** BANK
- Chipping Contest:** Sterzing Food Company
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Hole: Addington Place of Burlington; Allen Agency-Country Financial; Carl A. Nelson & Company; Century 21 Property Professionals; Klingner and Associates, P.C.; Kozlowski Law Group, LLC; L.J. Roth Restoration Service; Mosquito Joe of Burlington-Ottumwa; Pilot Grove Savings Bank; ServiceMaster Cleaning & Restoration; SERVPRO of Burlington; Team Staffing Solutions, Inc.; The Busted Cup Brewhouse; The Views of Burlington; United Rentals.

For additional information or to reserve a space, contact **Melissa Jones**, mjones@greaterburlington.com.

ALONG JEFFERSON STREET

DOWNTOWN BURLINGTON, IOWA

July 20, 2024 9 AM - 4 PM
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BEE'S NIGHT, JULY 11



Looking for an awesome staff outing idea?

Join us for an epic night out at Community Field on Thursday, July 11th, as the Burlington Bees face off against the Thrillville Thrillbillies at 6:30 PM (Gates open at 5:30 PM).

Get ready for MASH-UP: Enter Sandler Night, where Burlington Bees players will sport specialty jerseys that will be auctioned off during the game, with proceeds

benefiting a local charity. Participate in the theme of the evening by dressing up as your favorite Adam Sandler character or rocking your best 80's/90's Metal attire.

Chamber of Commerce Member Discount: Pre-order 10 or more tickets for just \$4 each. Reach out to the Burlington Bees directly at 319-754-5705 or email jill@gobees.com by July 1 to secure your spot.

UNLOCK YOUR LEADERSHIP POTENTIAL WITH OUR NEW LEADERSHIP 2.0 PROGRAM

We're thrilled to unveil Leadership 2.0, an elite development opportunity crafted for discerning leaders aiming to elevate their capabilities to extraordinary levels. This innovative program harnesses the wisdom and methodologies perfected by renowned experts James Songster and Sue Schank, who bring over six decades of leadership excellence from their tenure at the Walt Disney Company.

Who Should Join? Leadership 2.0 is tailor-made for:

- **Current Managers & Team Leads:** Amplify your impact and influence.
- **Greater Burlington Leadership Alumni:** Take the next step in your leadership journey.
- **Organizational Leaders:** Master the art of leadership to drive your organization forward.

Program Highlights:

- **Exclusive Curriculum:** Dive into a curriculum customized to your leadership journey, ensuring deep personal and professional growth.

- **Engage & Collaborate:** Benefit from dynamic, interactive sessions that encourage realtime interaction with peers and leadership gurus.

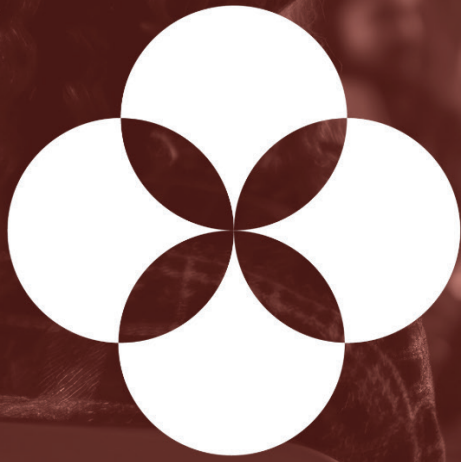
- **Mentorship from Masters:** Gain invaluable insights from James Songster and other luminaries, enhancing your learning with their extensive field expertise.

Program Schedule: Join us monthly, every third Tuesday from September to May, for transformative sessions that promise to challenge, inspire, and evolve your leadership approach.

Limited Enrollment: Elevate your leadership by being one of the select 35 professionals to experience this transformative journey. Act now—spaces are filled on a firstcome, first-served basis.



Discover more and secure your spot at GreaterBurlington.com/Leadership.



InspireNext SUMMIT

Inspiring the
Next Generation

Date: September 10, 2024 | Time: 12 - 4 PM | Location: Catfish Bend Convention & Event Center

Join us for the 2024 InspireNext event, an opportunity for professionals in Greater Burlington to network, learn, and grow. Whether you're looking to connect with peers, find mentors, or meet potential partners in your industry, InspireNext offers the perfect setting to build meaningful relationships and advance your career.

Keynote Presentation: Chris Lee

We are thrilled to feature Chris Lee as our keynote presenter. Chris is an expert in organizational culture and a highly sought-after speaker, leadership consultant, podcast host, and writer. With a background as a conservation biologist, Chris is renowned for his unique nature-inspired approach to cultivating healthy organizational ecosystems. He will provide valuable insights and strategies to help you find joy and fulfillment in your professional life.

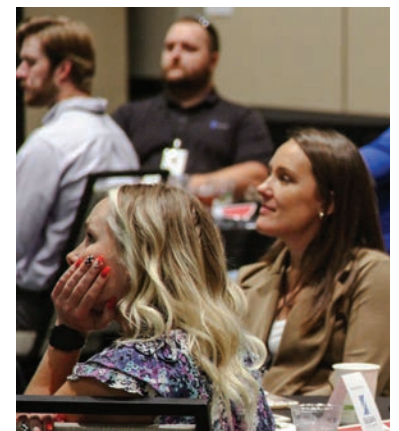
Event Highlights:

- **Networking Opportunities:** Engage with community peers, industry leaders, and potential mentors in a dynamic and supportive environment.
- **Team Building Activities:** Participate in interactive exercises designed to strengthen your teamwork skills and foster collaboration.
- **Lunch:** Enjoy a complimentary lunch.

Don't miss this chance to enroll your employees in this great opportunity to connect, learn, and be inspired.



Register



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!

The Main Line Restaurant

206 N 3rd St, Ste 103, 319-208-8165

The Main Line Restaurant serves Cajun style food daily and features soul food on Sundays.

SADE Suites

sadesuites.com, 914 Broadway, Ste 1, West Burlington

Sade Suites is dedicated to helping beauty industry entrepreneurs achieve their dream of running their own business in a private, luxurious salon suite.

White Willow Bookkeeping

Whitewillowbookkeeping.com, 309-245-8209

White Willow Bookkeeping is devoted to helping businesses thrive! We categorize all business-related income and expenses and issue a monthly financial statement, offer detailed financial invoicing, bill payment, tax planning and preparation, and unlimited email and text support. We also offer class tracking services, accounts payable & receivable services, payroll services, and sales tax filing.

Slumberland Furniture

3150 Agency St., 319-754-887

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For information on membership,
contact Melissa Jones,
mjones@greaterburlington.com

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Running from May through September 26, the Jefferson Street Farmers Market spans the 300 to 500 blocks of Jefferson Street.



JEFFERSON STREET FARMERS MARKET

JULY 11, 18, 25



SCAN ME

The Jefferson Street Farmers Market invites the community to enjoy the vibrant street market experience this summer, with events scheduled every Thursday from 4:30 to 7 PM. The market offers an array of handcrafted and locally baked goods, fresh produce, and a variety of local products.

Shoppers can also enjoy live entertainment from local musicians each week. Once a month there are free horse and trolley rides!

LIST OF EVENTS FOR JULY:

- July 4 - No market
- July 11 - Live music by Jared Rouggy
- July 18 - Live music by John Heasley
Free House & Trolley Rides
- July 25 - Live music by Ruby Orr

July Premier Sponsor:

OUTSTANDING SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES REMAINING FOR 2024:

Farmers Market Sponsors - (August and September) — Multiple weeks of sponsorship! Every Thursday during the months of August and September. Help one of downtown’s biggest, regularly attended events wrap-up the year! Cost: \$2,000

Manufacturers Appreciation Luncheon - (October 4) — This annual event recognizes contributions made by the manufacturing sector to the local economy. Help celebrate these accomplishments with a sponsorship: Booth Bingo Sponsor (\$500), VIP Reserved Table (\$300) and Booth Sponsors remain available.

Witches Night Out After Party/Last Stop - (October 18) — This is one of Downtown Burlington’s fastest growing events with a fun Halloween spin on “Ladies Night Out”. Take advantage of bringing the ladies to your business by being the last stop sponsor for \$250.

For more information contact Melissa Jones, mjones@greaterburlington.com.

Port of Burlington Welcome Center

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mjones@greaterburlington.com

JULY

july

EVENTS

4 - West Burlington
4th of July Celebration
Downtown West Burlington, 6 AM - 10 PM
facebook.com/WB4THOFJULY

4, 11, 18, 25 - Jefferson Street Farmers Market
Downtown Burlington, 4:30 - 7 PM
facebook.com/downtownburlingtoniamarket

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

6 and 18 - Viking Mississippi Docking
Port of Burlington, 8 AM
GreaterBurlington.com

6, 20, 27 - Weekly Racing
34 Raceway, 5 pm
34Raceway.com

6 - Frida Fiesta
Art Center of Burlington, 6 - 9 PM
BTownArt.com

6 - Marques Morel
Night Cap Listening Lounge, 7 PM
LiveAtTheCapitol.com

6 - Symphonic Blast
Crapo Park, 9 PM
SEISO.us

7 - Southern Summer Dinner
Night Cap Listening Lounge, 6 PM
LiveAtTheCapitol.com

7, 14, 21, 28 - Municipal Band Concert
Crapo Park Bandshell, 7:30 PM
MuniBand.org

11 - 14 - Snake Alley Festival of Film
Capitol Performing Arts Center
LiveAtTheCapitol.com

11 - Slocum 50
34 Raceway, 5 PM
34Raceway.com

11 - Partnership Night at the Bees
Community Field, 6:30 PM
GoBees.com

12 - Dennis Albee
Night Cap Listening Lounge, 6 PM
LiveAtTheCapitol.com

13 - Great River Pottery Throwdown
Art Center of Burlington, 5 - 9 PM
BTownArt.com

13 - Chenille, Then and Now
Legacy Theater, Carthage, IL, 7 PM
TheLegacyTheater.com

19 - Jared Rouggy
Night Cap Listening Lounge, 6 PM
LiveAtTheCapitol.com

19 - The NeverEnding Story
Capitol Performing Arts Center, 6 PM
LiveAtTheCapitol.com

19 - Pickle Palooza
Appleberry Orchard, 7 - 10 PM
AppleberryOrchard.com

20 - A Very Vintage Market
Downtown Burlington, 9 AM - 4 PM
facebook.com/AVeryVintageMarket

20 - Iowa State University Insect Zoo
Burlington Public library, 10 AM - 12 PM
Burlington.lib.ia.us

23 - 29 - Des Moines County Fair
Des Moines County Fairgrounds
DesMoinesCountyFair.com

24 - Coffee With the Chamber
The Beancounter Coffeehouse & Drinkery
8 - 9 AM
GreaterBurlington.com

24 - Shepherd's Table
Free Community Meal
First Congregational Church, 4:30 PM
FCCBurlington.org

27 - Burlington RAGBRAI: Dip It Good
Burlington Riverfront
BurlingtonRagbrai.com

View more events at
GreaterBurlington.com/Events



BURLINGTON BEES

2 - Burlington Bees vs O'Fallon Hoots, 6 PM

3 - Burlington Bees vs Clinton LumberKings FIREWORKS, 6 PM

5 - Burlington Bees vs Clinton LumberKings, 6 PM

6 - Burlington Bees vs Springfield Lucky Horseshoes, 6 PM

7 - Burlington Bees vs Normal CornBelts, 2 PM

9 - Burlington Bees vs Alton River Dragons, 6 PM

10 and 11 - Burlington Bees vs Thrillville Thrillbillies, 6 PM (11, Partnership Night)

17 - Burlington Bees vs Springfield Lucky Horseshoes, 6 PM

18 - Burlington Bees vs Jackson Rockabillys, 6 PM

20 - Burlington Bees vs Clinton LumberKings FIREWORKS, 6 PM

21 - Burlington Bees Community Basket Day, 2 PM

22 - Burlington Bees vs Clinton LumberKings, 6 PM

27 - Burlington Bees vs Normal CornBelts, 6 PM

29 - Burlington Bees vs Springfield Lucky Horseshoes, 6 PM

30 - Burlington Bees vs Clinton LumberKings FIREWORKS, 6 PM

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Visit GoBees.com for more information.

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WEST BURLINGTON 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION!

For 20 years, the West Burlington 4th of July Celebration has been providing residents and visitors alike with a breathtaking array of family-friendly entertainment. More than just a spectacular fireworks show, the celebration in West Burlington is a full day of fun events for all ages.

The celebration in 2024 is no different - there will be a pancake breakfast, bike races, inflatables for kids, a dunk tank, bags tournament, and one of the best musical lineups in the area with Sean Kistler, Autumn's Waiting, and Student Body set to perform. Beloved West Burlington citizen Mary Storch, who served the West Burlington School District for 43 years, will serve as Grand Marshal for the parade. For more information, visit WestBurlingtonIowa.gov/Fourth.

DES MOINES COUNTY FAIR - 2024

JULY 23 - JULY 29 | DES MOINES COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

The best days of summer are spent at the Des Moines County Fair! Don't miss the chance to experience the animals, the food and the fun that only a county fair can offer. The best part is free admission, free parking, and free family fun, all at the Des Moines County Fair. Check out the whole schedule of events at DesMoinesCountyFair.com.

CHENILLE, THEN AND NOW

July 13 - July 29 | 7 - 9 PM | THE LEGACY THEATER

A Legacy Theater fundraising experience starring international gospel/opera star, Chenille (Saunders) Sheeran. Chenille will grace the stage with her four-octave range, delighting the audience with show tunes, ballads, opera, and gospel.

Tickets are \$50, or choose the Dinner & Show option for \$125. Tickets on the theater website or at the Legacy box office. Follow the Legacy Theater on Facebook or visit TheLegacyTheater.com.

SOUNDS OF THE PAST

JULY 20 | 10 AM - 12 PM

Museum patrons can hear the popular music of yesteryear expertly played on the museum's historic Martin Bruhl piano and witness an antique Edison phonograph in operation.

Regular museum admission fees apply: Members admitted free; adults \$10; veterans & seniors \$8 and children age 16 and younger \$2.

For more information, follow the Des Moines County Historical Society on Facebook, or visit: DMCHS.org.

PICKLE PALOOZA AT APPLEBERRY ORCHARD

JULY 19 | 7 - 10 PM

Celebrate National Pickle Month and get pickled at Appleberry Orchard's Pickle Palooza!

Enjoy an adults-only, relaxing evening with pickle-themed food & drinks, live music by Brad Kurtz and socializing. Age 21 and over.

For more information, follow Appleberry Orchard on Facebook or visit: AppleberryOrchard.com

34 RACEWAY - WEEKLY RACING

JULY 6, 20, 27 | 5 PM

Hear that roar on 34? That's the sound of family fun and fast dirt-track racing at Southeast Iowa's premier place to race!

It's Big River Resources Night at the races - just \$12 adult admission, \$10 for students & seniors and kids age 10 and younger get in free with a paying adult.

Grandstand opens at 5 PM, hot laps at 6:15 PM and racing follows. For more information, follow 34 Raceway on Facebook or visit: 34Raceway.com



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

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

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DOWNTOWN CHRISTMAS IN JULY

It's Happening.



Downtown Partners, Inc. is excited to announce the "Christmas in July" fundraiser, aimed at enhancing the holiday decorations in Downtown Burlington.

The community is encouraged to contribute to this festive cause, ensuring a beautiful and vibrant Downtown for the holiday season.

Funds raised will go directly towards purchasing and installing holiday decorations, creating a cheerful and inviting atmosphere for residents and visitors alike. As part of the fundraising efforts, Santa Claus will be making special appearances at various summer events, spreading holiday cheer and encouraging donations.

SUPPORT THE BEAUTIFICATION OF DOWNTOWN BURLINGTON AND JOIN IN THE SPIRIT OF GIVING BY DONATING TO THE "CHRISTMAS IN JULY" FUNDRAISER TODAY. EVERY CONTRIBUTION HELPS MAKE THE HOLIDAY SEASON MORE MAGICAL FOR EVERYONE.



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