

November 2024



THE PARTNERSHIP

GREATER BURLINGTON PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER - VOL. 104 NO. 11



EVERY
VOTE
COUNTS

VOTE NOV. 5



JOIN ME ON A TRIP TO PORTUGAL

by Amy O'Brien

As I moved into my new office here at the Partnership, I found a plaque on the shelf that reads: To our present and future CEOs of Greater Burlington Partnership: As you strive to improve our community, please share a part of our heritage and pride with the rest of the world. Sincerely, Your fellow members January 27, 2017. I hung it next to a mirror as I exit my office as a reminder this message is for me.

On that note, I am excited to invite you to join me on a unique adventure to explore the beauty, history, and culture of Portugal! As part of the Greater Burlington community, we have the wonderful opportunity to travel together on an unforgettable journey from May 7 to May 15, 2025. Departing from Chicago O'Hare, this trip offers a perfect balance of exploration, relaxation, and shared experiences in one of Europe's most charming destinations.

Our 8-day itinerary includes visits to some of Portugal's most captivating cities:

- **Lisbon** – We will spend two nights at the start of our visit and 2 nights after returning from Porto in the vibrant capital city, staying at Hotel Smy Lisbon. Known for its beautiful architecture, historical sites, and mouthwatering cuisine, Lisbon is sure to captivate you.
- **Fátima** – Next, we'll travel to the world-famous pilgrimage site of Fátima for a serene one-night stay at Hotel Santa Maria. Whether for spiritual reflection or simply to appreciate the town's significance, this stop will leave a lasting impression.
- **Porto** – Finally, we'll spend two nights in the picturesque city of Porto, renowned for its stunning views of the Douro River and its famous wine. We will be staying at Hotel Black Tulip, perfectly situated for exploring the city's many wonders.

The trip, priced at just \$2,849 per person (double occupancy), includes round-trip airfare, accommodations, and a carefully curated itinerary designed to ensure that we make the most of our time in each city. Whether you are interested in historical landmarks, culinary experiences, or just soaking in the vibrant atmosphere of Portugal, this trip offers something for everyone.

This journey is not only an opportunity to explore a beautiful part of the world but also a chance to strengthen the bonds within our community. Traveling together provides a unique space to connect, share new experiences, and build lasting memories. And as my plaque states, the trip will give all of us a chance to share our heritage and pride of Greater Burlington, Iowa with the citizens of Portugal!

Space is limited, so I encourage you to reserve your spot soon. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or need more details. I look forward to exploring Portugal with you.



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ON THE COVER

LIGHTED HOLIDAY PARADE

Come join Downtown Partners on November 30 at 5 PM as we kick off the holiday season with the Lighted Holiday Parade in Downtown Burlington! For years, we've gathered together to watch the magic unfold on Jefferson Street, and this year is even more special as we celebrate 10 years of A Very Vintage Market with the theme, "A Very Vintage Christmas." It's not just a parade, it's a cherished tradition where families, friends, and neighbors come together to share in the wonders of the season.

We hope you'll embrace the theme and help fill Downtown with joy, laughter, and love. As you stroll through the twinkling lights and festive displays, take a moment to support the small businesses that make our community feel like home. They are the heart of this special place. Come be part of the magic, and let's make this holiday season one to remember.



Join the Conversation!

FRIDAY FORUM

Greater Burlington Partnership or Virtual, 8 AM

Scheduled for the third Friday of the month, the events will provide information regarding community hot topics and business focused issues, along with updates from our State Legislators. Due to it being an election year, the topics and legislators are TBD.

Save these 2025 dates: January 17, February 21, March 21, April 18

* Mark your calendars for the Public Officials Reception, December 10 at the Art Center of Burlington from 5 - 7 PM

All Chamber of Commerce members will be invited to join the discussion in person or listen in online.

JOIN US FOR THE HOLIDAY BUSINESS SHOWCASE

November 14, 5 - 7 PM
The Loft on Jefferson
in Downtown Burlington

JOIN FELLOW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEMBERS FOR THE HOLIDAY EDITION OF BUSINESS AFTER HOURS.

The Holiday Showcase is the Greater Burlington Partnership's version of a Christmas party. The event includes live music, prizes, booths, drinks, appetizers, networking, and of course - a healthy dose of holiday cheer. This year the event will be held at the LOFT on Jefferson in Downtown Burlington and is free to attend.

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

HOLIDAY BUSINESS SHOWCASE



Slate of Nominees for Burlington/West Burlington Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

The Slate of Nominees:

- Crystal Cole - Two Rivers Bank & Trust
- Marty Mogk - Burlington Black Water, LLC
- Wayne Riniker - Westland Mall
- Brenda Clements - American Ordnance, LLC
- Rochelle Swanner - Lunning Funeral Home

The Nominating Committee of the Burlington/West Burlington Area Chamber of Commerce met and nominated the following persons to serve a term on the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors commencing January 2025.

In accordance with Article IV, Section 2 of the By-Laws of the Burlington/West Burlington Area Chamber of Commerce, additional names of candidates for directors can be nominated by petition bearing the genuine signatures of least twenty (20) qualified members of the Chamber of Commerce.

THE GREATER BURLINGTON PARTNERSHIP PRESENTS

2025

ANNUAL DINNER

You're Invited

Come one, come all - to the Greater Burlington Partnership's premier annual event. This year, be transported back in time by a vintage carnival extravaganza that promises a night of fun, wonder, and celebration.

Set to be attended by over 500 chamber members, this grand gathering serves as a platform to highlight the remarkable achievements of 2024 and recognizes the community members whose contributions have made a lasting impact.

The main event will open with a plated steak dinner and aerial silk performance by renowned aerialist Laura Ernst.

The evening includes a reception hour with live entertainment, live and silent auctions, an award ceremony, and after party.

Attire:

Attire is formal, with ladies encouraged to wear gowns or dresses and gentlemen in suits or tuxedos. While matching the event colors is not required, guests who wish to coordinate are welcome to incorporate the event colors: gold, red, and black.



FRIDAY

**JAN
24**

AT 5:30 PM



Ticket Information:

Tables of eight, half tables, and individual tickets are available for purchase through Melissa Jones at:

- mjones@greaterburlington.com
- 319-208-0052





GREATER BURLINGTON LEADERSHIP MEET THE CLASS OF 2024 - 2025

Greater Burlington Leadership is a professional development series designed for individuals who want to develop and strengthen their leadership skills within the community.



Top left to right: Jared Hill, Great River Health; Robert Rohrer, Burlington Police Department; Braden Ridgway, CNH Industrial America, LLC; Trenton Kennelly, CNH Industrial America, LLC; Brianna Akers, Southeastern Community College; Lynnae Hillyer, Carl A. Nelson & Company; Michelle Popkin, Southeastern Community College

Middle left: Tyler Dick, Farmers Savings Bank; Robert Berndt, Burlington Fire Department

Bottom left: Amanda Kalina, Burlington Community School District; Jessica Martinez, Catfish Bend Casino/Great River Entertainment; Stephanie Vititoe, Burlington Community School District; Brandon Orth, MidWestOne Bank; Julie Belger, American Ordnance; Becky Nelson, Burlington Public Library; Mac Holford, Greater Burlington Partnership; Robin Pieper, SEIBUS; Autumn Fjeld, Equus Workforce Solutions / IowaWORKS; Ricquel Curtis, Community Health Centers of Southeastern Iowa



Leadership 2.0 is 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.

Top left to right: Christy Jameson, Southeastern Community College; Lena Jones, Alcohol & Drug Dependency Service of SE Iowa; Abbey Hobbs, Summer Street Animal Clinic; Luke Barnes, Refreshment Services Pepsi; Dr. Heath Hillyard, Summer Street Animal Clinic; Chip Miklavcic, Silgan Containers; April Van Hamme, Hope Haven, A Division of Imagine the Possibilities, Inc.; Mindy Nedela, Farmers Savings Bank; Shawna Brown, Dave Bessine Electric; Melissa Jones, Greater Burlington Partnership; Nicolle Good, Connection Bank; Denise Hanks, Heart Song, Inc; Travis Turner, Alcohol & Drug Dependency Service of SE Iowa; Keri Mercer, Southeastern Community College; Amy Moyner, Greater Burlington Partnership; Savannah Pulse, CNH Industrial America LLC; Mika Chenoweth, Tenderfoot Carpets, L.P.; Jared Schmeiser, Sterzing Food Company

Not pictured: Terrie Whiting, Bark & Play Daycare and Suites; Nick Williams, Southeastern Community College; Tony Diewold, Klingner & Associates P.C.; Deb Fowler, Century 21 Property Professionals



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Group lead
Amy O'Brien
President & CEO



To book or inquire please contact
Amy O'Brien | T: 319-752-6365
E: aobrien@greaterburlington.com

Scan the QR code for
booking and information or
visit www.GreaterBurlington.com





Hot Deals This Holiday Season

This holiday season, shopping local just got better. Before you head to your favorite local boutique, restaurant, or business, be sure to visit GreaterBurlington.com/HotDeals. Greater Burlington Hot Deals is like a local Groupon without the fee. Chamber Member businesses post deals and coupons for residents and visitors to utilize. See in real time what deals are going on now or sign up and be notified every time a new deal is added.

Businesses: be sure to take advantage of this free perk and input your Hot Deals via the Info Hub GrowthZone. Shoppers, sign up or visit GreaterBurlington.com/HotDeals every time you shop a local business.



SCAN ME

Here is to shopping local this holiday season with Greater Burlington Hot Deals!



GIFT IDEAS at the Port of Burlington Welcome Center

Tis the season... when a friend or loved one might be missing Greater Burlington! If you know someone who might not make it home for the holidays, or if you want to spread a little Greater Burlington cheer this season, be sure to put the Port of Burlington Welcome Center on your list of holiday shopping destinations. A Sterzing's coin purse, a Snake Alley Christmas ornament, a Greater Burlington coffee mug, and so much more... the Port of Burlington Welcome Center is your home for unique gift ideas!



DISCOVER DOWNTOWN *for the Holidays*



Holiday Open House

November 10, 10 AM - 4 PM

Kick off your holiday season with a favorite event - Downtown Burlington's Holiday Open House and enter to win Downtown Dollars to be spent in the local Downtown Businesses!

Lighted Holiday Parade

November 30, 5 PM

Downtown Partners' Lighted Holiday Parade will take place on Jefferson Street. Visit GreaterBurlington.com for more details and application forms.

PREMIER SPONSOR:

STANDARD OF BEVERDALE 

This year's theme is
"A Very Vintage Christmas."

Living Windows

December 5, 5 - 8 PM

Experience a magical night as storefronts come alive in Downtown Burlington.

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Santa's Cottage | Saturdays in December

The jolly old elf himself will be greeting visitors in Downtown Burlington at Nancy Neafie Park on the corner of Sixth and Jefferson. There is no cost, and cameras are welcome. Creating fond memories of Downtown for families today helps build support for Downtown tomorrow.

Many thanks to Carl A. Nelson & Co., Boy Scouts Troop 3, City of Burlington, and the DPI Design Committee for their assistance with Santa's Cottage.

PREMIER SPONSOR:


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2024 MANUFACTURERS APPRECIATION LUNCHEON WELCOMES LOCAL STUDENTS



On Friday, October 4, the Greater Burlington Partnership hosted the 2024 Manufacturers Appreciation Luncheon at the Burlington Golf Club. The event brought together students from Burlington and West Burlington High Schools with local businesses and manufacturers. Juniors and seniors, selected for their strong academic performance and interest in local career opportunities, joined company representatives for meaningful conversations about future career paths.

Brian Johnson, Director of District Services at BCSD, highlighted the event's impact, stating, "Students had the unique opportunity to sit with business partners in fields

they have a career interest in, bridging the gap between education and industry." The luncheon aimed to foster connections that inspire students and open doors to internships and future employment.

Joe Bowman, Business teacher at WBHS, echoed the sentiment, noting that "students gained valuable insights into the business world and began building professional networks—a key asset for their future careers." This event is part of the Partnership's ongoing efforts to support workforce development and strengthen ties between education and industry in Greater Burlington.



5TH AND 8TH GRADE CAREER FAIRS - MARK YOUR CALENDARS! December 16 & 18

Mark your calendars! The Greater Burlington Partnership is excited to host the annual 5th and 8th Grade Career Fairs at Southeastern Community College. On December 16, 5th graders from across Des Moines County will explore local career options, followed by 8th graders on December 18. With over 600 students participating over two days, this event offers a unique opportunity for young learners to discover the diverse career paths available right here in Greater Burlington.

Don't miss this chance to inspire the next generation!

Contact Teli Fedele for more information, tfedele@greaterburlington.com



Fireworks for Every Occasion

Congratulations to J & M Displays, Inc.

For over 40 years, J&M Displays has been lighting up the skies and bringing joy to communities across the globe. From humble beginnings to becoming Iowa's largest fireworks provider, they continue to amaze us with their passion, innovation, and commitment to quality.

Their contributions to our local community—whether through sponsorships, donations, or providing top-tier jobs—have made them a true pillar of Greater Burlington.



DOWNTOWN PARTNERS, INC. FUNDRAISER Campaign

Downtown Partners, Inc. is launching a Fundraising Campaign. The campaign is a fun way to support Downtown Burlington!

The new Streetscape project means new Downtown holiday décor is needed. All donations will go toward new holiday decorations. The first 25 investors who donate \$200+ will receive two V.I.P. second-story indoor seats at The Busted Cup Brewhouse for the 2024 Lighted Holiday Parade on November 30, as a special donor THANK YOU from Downtown Partners, Inc. The V.I.P. section includes 4 free drinks, appetizers, and a warm, dry spot to watch the Parade!

Downtown Partners works hard to present special events, encourage building and business improvement, and to beautify the city center. We hope you will show your support for our activities by contributing at a level that is meaningful to you. The proceeds of this campaign will go towards new holiday decorations in the Downtown!

Thank you to The Busted Cup Brewhouse for sponsoring the V.I.P. section!

For more information, please visit the Downtown Burlington Iowa Facebook page, reach out to a board member or contact Amy Moyner at 319-208-0056 or amoyner@greaterburlington.com.



Thank you to The Busted Cup Brewhouse sponsor of the V.I.P. section.



Scan QR Code to Support Downtown Partners, Inc.

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 Skin Studio

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RIBBON CUTTINGS & CELEBRATORY EVENTS



BIG HOLLOW RECREATION RENOVATION GRAND OPENING



THE BROADWAY BAR, GRILL & SWEET TREATS GRAND OPENING

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND NEW MEMBER LUNCHEON

December 4, 12 PM

Greater Burlington Partnership Offices
 Winegard Board Room



RSVP to Melissa Jones, mjonesgreaterburlington.com



RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY PARTNERSHIP SOUTHEASTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND GREAT RIVER HEALTH - GRAND OPENING



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CELEBRATING THE 2024 GREATER BURLINGTON RESTAURANT WEEK WINNERS!

Greater Burlington's vibrant dining scene came alive this September during the 2024 Greater Burlington Restaurant Week, a 10-day celebration of delicious cuisine, community, and culinary creativity. From flavorful dishes to family-friendly fun, the event offered something for everyone, while spotlighting some of the best local eateries our area has to offer. This annual event not only delighted food lovers but also helped boost local businesses and raise awareness of Greater Burlington's diverse restaurant scene.

We are proud to announce and congratulate our Chamber of Commerce members who have earned top honors in this year's competition. Each winner received a commemorative plaque and will receive an enhanced listing in the 2025 Community Guide, marking them as a Restaurant Week winner. These awards reflect their dedication to excellence, service, and, of course, great food.

Each of these restaurants has shown an unwavering commitment to culinary excellence, and we are honored to celebrate their contributions to our community and as Chamber members.

As you plan your next meal out, be sure to visit these award-winning establishments, support local businesses, and savor the flavors that make Greater Burlington a truly special place to dine. Congratulations to all of our 2024 winners, and thank you for making this year's Greater Burlington Restaurant Week a success!

Best Beverage

Corked 101

Best Dessert

Mississippi Moon Ice Cream Parlor

Best Healthy Option

Beancounter Coffeehouse & Drinkery

Best Pork Dish

Billy Sims Barbeque

Best Service

La Bohème

Best on the Go

Dame Fine Coffee

Chef's Choice

Martini's Grille

Most Super Restaurant

The Broadway Bar, Grill & Sweet Treats

DOWNTOWN PARTNERS, INC. BOARD NOMINATIONS

The Nominating Committee of Downtown Partners, Inc., met and nominated the following persons to serve a term on the Downtown Partners Board of Directors commencing January 2025.

The Slate of Nominees 2025 - 2027:

Stephanie Brakeville, Klingner and Associates, P.C. – SSMID
 Monica Meyers – At-Large
 John Mercer, Midwest Realty – At-Large
 Lavonne Fogel, Farmers Savings Bank – At-Large
 Sam Avery,
 Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission – At-Large



BE ON THE LOOK OUT

From November 23 through December 13, follow me daily on Greater Burlington Partnership's Facebook page where I will leave clues to help you find me. If you solve my riddles and discover where I am that day, post the answer to be entered into a prize drawing. For an additional chance to win, come see me in person, and take an "Elfie" (I LOVE THEM!) and post it under that day's riddle on the Greater Burlington Partnership's Facebook page. I need to get back to planning |my shenanigans. See you soon!

Yours in Mischief,

#GBPetey



NOVEMBER

november

View more events at
GreaterBurlington.com/Events

EVENTS

1 - Annual Hog Roast
 Great River Christian School
 4:30 - 6:30 PM
facebook.com/GreatRiverChristian

1 - Friday Lounge Live: Eric Pettit Lion
 Busted Cup Brewhouse, 5 - 8 PM
BustedCup.com

1 - Great Tastes
 Catfish Bend Convention & Event Center
 6 PM
SCClowa.edu

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

1 - Where Are They WOW! Tour
 Capitol Performing Arts Center, 7:30 PM
LiveAtTheCapitol.com

2 - Catfish Bend Craft & Vendor Show
 Catfish Bend Convention & Event Center
 10 AM - 5 PM
FunCityResort.com

2 - That's Yesterday's News
 Burlington Public Library, 10 AM
Burlington.lib.ia.us

2 and 16 - Chess Club
 Burlington Public Library, 10 AM
Burlington.lib.ia.us

2 - KidSymphony
 Capitol Performing Arts Center, 4:30 PM
SEISO.us

2 - MONK: Jazz Night with
 All American Jazz Collective
 Art Center of Burlington, 6:30 PM
BTownArt.com

5 - Distinguished Citizens Dinner
 Honoring Dr. Michael McCoy
 Catfish Bend Convention & Event Center
 6 - 8:30 PM
MississippiValleyBSA.org

7 - Comedy Thursday
 Memorial Auditorium, 7:30 PM
BurlingtonRiverfront.com

9 - Sterling Lord Writers &
 Readers Festival
 Burlington Public Library, 9 AM - 5 PM
Burlington.lib.ia.us

9 - Paradise (Kansas) City: A Tribute to
 Guns & Roses
 Capitol Performing Arts Center, 7:30 PM
LiveAtTheCapitol.com

10 - Downtown Holiday Open House
 Downtown Burlington, 10 AM - 4 PM
facebook.com/DowntownBurlingtonIowa

12 - Talent Beyond Borders
 Greater Burlington Partnership, 9 AM - 12 PM
GreaterBurlington.com

14 - Holiday Business Showcase
 The Loft on Jefferson, 5 - 7 PM
GreaterBurlington.com

14 - Lunch at the Top
 First United Church of Christ, 11 AM - 1 PM
FirstUCCBurl.org

15, 16, and 18 - Vacation Through Time:
 Valley of the Kings
 Burlington Public Library, times vary
Burlington.lib.ia.us

16 - Night of Dreams Gala
 Catfish Bend Convention & Event Center
 5:30 PM
GreatRiverHealth.org

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

22 and 23 - Sounds of Christmas
 Capitol Performing Arts Center, 7 PM
LiveAtTheCapitol.com

23 - Rockapella Christmas
 Legacy Theater, Carthage, IL, 7 PM
TheLegacyTheater.com

23 - StumpTown/Ghost of Judas
 Memorial Auditorium, 7 PM
BurlingtonRiverfront.com

27 - 30 Friends of the Library Book
 Sale Burlington Public Library
 times vary
Burlington.lib.ia.us

30 - Lighted Holiday Parade
 Downtown Burlington, 5 PM
facebook.com/DowntownBurlingtonIowa

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GREAT RIVER CHRISTIAN SCHOOL ANNUAL HOG ROAST

NOVEMBER 1, 4:30 - 6:30 PM | 400 BLOCK OF SWEENEY

Who wants to cook on a Friday? We do!

We will cook for you and you don't even need to leave your car. The meal includes: pulled pork sandwich, coleslaw, baked beans, Sterzing's chips and a dessert. You can find a GRCS family and purchase tickets from them or contact the office at 319-753-2255.

On November 1 starting at 4:30 PM you can drive and bring your tickets to the 400 block of Sweeney St behind the school, and we will deliver to your car.

Advance tickets are \$12. Didn't get a ticket early or picked up an extra person for dinner? You can still swing by on November 1 and purchase a meal for \$15.

For more information, visit:
GreatRiverChristianSchool.org/wordpress.

SOUTHEASTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE GREAT TASTES

NOVEMBER 1, 5:30 CHECK IN. EVENT 6 - 8:30 PM
CATFISH BEND CONVENTION & EVENT CENTER

At Great Tastes, you get to have a fun night out while raising money for an important cause.

Enjoy a wide variety of regional wines, beer, and ales and fill your plate with mouth-watering dishes.

Bid on fun silent and live auction items, win big, and leave the event knowing you've made a major difference in students lives, just by having fun.

Net proceeds fund scholarships, instructional mini-grants, and other important Southeastern Community College initiatives.

For tickets and more information, visit:
SCClowa.ejoinme.org/MyEvents/GreatTastes2024/tabid/1426708/Default.aspx.

MONK: JAZZ NIGHT WITH THE ALL AMERICAN JAZZ COLLECTIVE

NOVEMBER 2, 6:30 - 9:30 PM

ART CENTER OF BURLINGTON

Don't miss this unforgettable Jazz Night in downtown Burlington!

The All American Jazz Collective, featuring drummer Anthony Russell and pianist/organist Landon Oliver, return to Burlington for an evening celebrating the iconic music of Thelonious Monk.

In collaboration with the Art Center of Burlington and Southeastern Community College Music, this event is FREE and open to the public! Doors open at 6:30 PM. Seating is first-come, first-served. If you've been to an ACB Jazz Night (remember Billie Holiday?), you know it's a night not to miss, and you'll want to arrive early! Cash bar and themed charcuterie boards available for purchase.

For more information, follow the Art Center of Burlington on Facebook or visit: BTownArt.com.

DISTINGUISHED CITIZENS DINNER HONORING DR. MICHAEL MCCOY

NOVEMBER 5, 6 - 8:30 PM

CATFISH BEND CONVENTION & EVENT CENTER

Join us at the 27th Annual Burlington Distinguished Citizens Dinner. This event is sponsored by Two Rivers Bank & Trust.

The Mississippi Valley Council, Scouts BSA, is pleased to recognize an individual who personifies the spirit and values of Scouting. Dr. McCoy has been a pillar in the Burlington community for decades and on November 5th we will recognize him as the 2024 Distinguished Citizen.

Visit MississippiValleyBSA.org/events/burlington-dcd-mccoy-133-320-608 for more information.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

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

Access Energy Cooperative
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Owned by the members we serve.
www.accessenergycoop.com

Photo by Kim Kingery

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