



Clear Lake

Area Chamber of Commerce

The champion for business success and quality of life, creating a thriving destination and driving community prosperity.



Quarterly Coffee Recap | March 20

It was a great morning of connection and community at our Quarterly Coffee on March 20 at the Surf Ballroom & Museum.

Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Stacy Doughan; Clear Lake Community School District Superintendent Ian Dye; North Iowa Corridor Economic Development Corp. President and CEO Chad Schreck; and new Clear Lake City Mayor Mark Ebeling provided updates on their respective organizations.

Plus, new employees and new members were introduced, upcoming events were shared and business accomplishments and updates were celebrated.

Miss the event? Find the full video online [here](#), and mark your calendars for our next Quarterly Coffee on June 19!

Upcoming Chamber Events

Fridays, April 10, May 8 & June 12 | 8:30-9:30 AM

Social Media Power Hour
Location varies

➔ Join Marketing & Communications Specialist Maddie Anderly and Tourism Director Libbey Hohn for this opportunity to take your social media game to the next level and unlock new opportunities for your business! Limited spots available, so RSVP to libbey@clearlakeiowa.com.

Fridays, April 10, May 8 & June 12 | 10 AM

Monthly Senior Chamber Coffee
Clear Lake Athletics & Wellness Center

➔ This program is offered to Support Level members who want to stay connected to the Chamber. It features community updates, conversation, and coffee and treats from local businesses. If interested in learning more, reach out to ashley@clearlakeiowa.com.

Friday, April 17 | 10-11 AM

Membership 101
Chamber, 306 Main Ave.

➔ Learn how to maximize your member benefits, optimize your business directory listing, and more. RSVP to stacy@clearlakeiowa.com.

Saturday, April 18 | 8:30 AM

Earth Day Youth Mile and 5K/10K
City Park

➔ Get ready to lace up your running shoes and join us for a day of fun, fitness, and environmental awareness. Register [here](#).

Saturday, April 18 | 10 AM-1 PM

OutdoorFest
City Park

Get outside and celebrate OutdoorFest, part of Clear Lake Earth Day! This free, family-friendly event is packed with activities to get everyone moving and enjoying the great outdoors, including bounce houses, gaga ball, Strider bike course, family games, and more. Plus, take advantage of the outdoor play equipment exchange.

Tuesday, April 21 | 4:30-6 PM

Business After Hours
Snow Construction, 2500 S. 8th St. Clear Lake

➔ Join us at Snow Construction for an evening of networking, great drinks, and a look inside their stunning showroom. Don't miss this opportunity to connect with fellow Chamber members, unwind after the workday, and learn more about one of our local businesses.

Thursday, April 23 | 4-7 PM

North Iowa Green Expo & Farmers Market
Surf Ballroom, 460 North Shore Dr.

➔ This free, public event is all about supporting North Iowa's wellness, saving money, connecting with the community, and helping the planet. Shop a variety of local food producers and vendors offering products and services related to the outdoors, conservation, sustainability, and more.

Monday, April 24 | 8:30-10 AM

Corridor Connect
Surf Ballroom Music Experience Center

➔ Join our regional partner North Iowa Corridor Economic Development Corp. to hear the latest updates on North Iowa's economic projects and how they impact local businesses and our region. RSVP to jheiar@northiowacorridor.com.

Friday, May 1 | 2-4 PM

Rising Tides Lake Leadership Alumni Program
TBD

➔ Stay tuned for details on our upcoming alumni program!

Upcoming Chamber Events (Continued)

Tuesday, May 19 | 4:30-6 PM

Business After Hours
Images Photography & Fine Arts
 ➔ Join Images Photography and Surf Market as they host a special night bringing together creativity, community, and connection. Don't miss this opportunity to network and experience two unique businesses in one stop.

Thursday, May 28 | 6-9 P

Thursdays on Main begins
Downtown Clear Lake
 ➔ A fun, family-friendly weekly festival featuring live music, food and retail vendors and more on Main Avenue. For additional dates and the entertainment schedule, visit [here](#).

Friday, May 29 | TBD

Chamber Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting
Chamber & Welcome Center, 205 Main Ave.
 ➔ The wait is over! After more than a year away, the Chamber team is back home, and we're excited to welcome you in and showcase a space designed to serve as a hub for businesses, residents, and visitors alike.

Thursdays, June 4, 11 and 18

Thursdays on Main
Downtown Clear Lake
 ➔ The fun continues with the weekly summer festival featuring live music, food and retail vendors and more on Main Avenue. For additional dates and the entertainment schedule, click [here](#).

Tuesday, May 19 | 4:30-6 PM

Business After Hours
Clear Lake Yacht Club, 103 Main Ave.
 ➔ Hosted by the Association for the Preservation of Clear Lake, Clear Lake Yacht Club and the Clear Lake Sailing Center. Beverages and light appetizers will be provided.

Friday, June 19 | 7:30-9 AM

Quarterly Coffee, sponsored by Pritchard Companies
Surf Lounge, 460 North Shore Dr.
 ➔ New hire, promotion, award, recognition or event you'd like to share? Email ashley@clearlakeiowa.com to get on the agenda.



Friday, July 24 | 10:30 AM-5 PM

Chamber Golf FUNdraiser
Veterans Memorial Golf Club, 2000 N. Shore Dr.

This four-person, nine-hole best shot golf tournament is held at Veteran's Memorial Golf Course and all proceeds benefit the Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce.

Tentative event schedule is as follows:

- 10:30 AM Registration, Happy Hour, and Lunch
- 11:45 PM Rules Meeting
- Noon Shotgun Start
- 4 PM Member Social (cash bar and heavy appetizers – all members are welcome!)

For more information or to register, click [here](#). Cost: \$260 for a four-person team.

Ribbon Cuttings



New member? Remodeled or relocated? Commemorating a business milestone?

The Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce First Mates want to celebrate with you!

Call Stacy at 641-357-2159 or email her at stacy@clearlakeiowa.com to get your ribbon cutting or groundbreaking on the calendar.

Phoenix Consulting | Thursday, Feb. 12

Educational Opportunities

Protecting Your Big Idea: Patent Workshop

Tuesday, April 7 | Noon-1 PM, NIACC Pappajohn Center #117

Are you an innovator, inventor, and creator? Have you ever wondered if your big idea can be patented? Learn more about patents, the patent application process, and patent strategies for entrepreneurs and small businesses at this free in-person workshop.

Whether you're preparing to launch a new business or exploring a patent strategy for an established business, this workshop will provide insight into the costs, timelines, benefits, limitations, and strategies related to patents. Space is limited. Register [here](#).

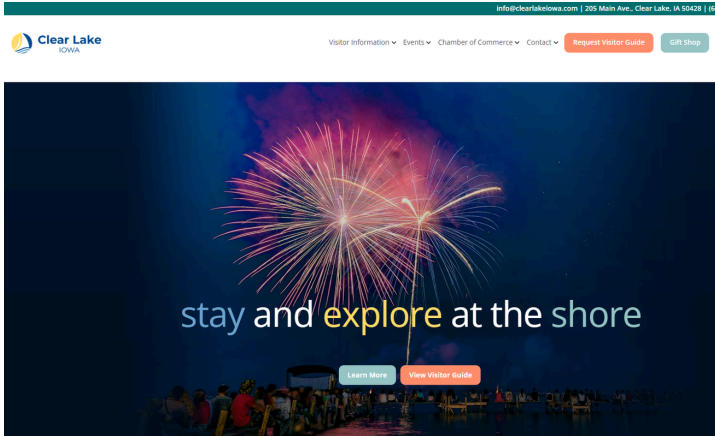
PROTECTING YOUR BIG IDEA

PATENT WORKSHOP WITH STOSCH SABO

APRIL 7, 2026 | 12PM-1PM
 NIACC PAPPAJOHN CENTER, #117



3 Must-Read Blog Posts



Clear Lake: A Destination Through the Ages

Long before Clear Lake became known for its jam-packed event calendar and the Surf Ballroom & Museum, it was a natural stopping point for explorers and travelers. Learn more about why.

From Volunteer to Rookie: My First TRI Clear Lake

Rachel Wumkes shares her journey from longtime TRI Clear Lake volunteer to first-time participant, reflecting on the inspiration, energy, and courage it took to step off the sidelines and into the race.

Plan Your Summer in Clear Lake, Iowa

Summer in Clear Lake doesn't just show up. It fills up. If you're going to plan your summer in Clear Lake, Iowa, now is the time. Let's map it out!

Get Weiss: Making the Most of Your Chamber Benefits

By Ashley Weiss
Membership Engagement Director

This month, I celebrated five years with the Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce, a milestone I'm incredibly grateful for.

Before joining the Chamber, I spent nearly a decade as a newspaper reporter, most recently covering Clear Lake for the Globe Gazette. While my career path shifted, storytelling never left — and it's still a big part of what I do today.

In fact, it's something I'd love to do more of for you.

Through our [Membership, Sponsorship and Marketing Guide](#), we offer a Featured Blog & Social Media Post written by "Newspaper Ashley." For \$250, I'll conduct interviews and write a 500-750 word story about your business or organization, which is then shared on our website, Facebook page, and at the top of our weekly events email reaching nearly 5,000 subscribers.

I'm also more than happy to provide guidance and proofread printed materials like menus, brochures, and more at no cost as part of your Chamber membership. Sometimes a second set of eyes can make all the difference.

I also encourage you to take a few minutes to explore our Membership, Sponsorship and Marketing Guide. It outlines a variety of free and paid opportunities designed to help you maximize your visibility. Whether you're looking to reach visitors, locals, or fellow businesses, there are options built to connect you with the right audience.

When I joined the Chamber, Stacy recognized that my background in journalism could strengthen how we communicate with our members. In 2023, I stepped into the Membership Engagement Director role and launched this newsletter — giving me another way to tell the stories that make our community special.

I'd also like to begin featuring more member news in this newsletter. If you have a special announcement, milestone, or update, please send it my way by Friday, June 19, to be included in the June quarterly newsletter.

As always, if you have questions about your membership or want help identifying opportunities that make sense for your business, don't hesitate to reach out at 641-357-2159 or ashley@clearlakeiowa.com.



As a member of the Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce, you can promote your products, services, sales and specials in our [Clear Lake, Iowa - SHOP · DINE · DISCOVER Facebook group](#). This group is more than just a marketplace, it's a place to connect with and support our local business community. The public group has more than 8,600 engaged members and it's growing. Get your content in front of more eyes through this benefit.

Volunteers Needed

Looking for an easy way to get involved in Clear Lake's biggest events? The Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce has launched a new, centralized webpage designed to make finding volunteer opportunities simple and convenient.

From the July 4th Celebration and TRI Clear Lake to Harvest Festival and Earth Day, these events rely on volunteers — and now it's easier than ever to get connected.

Whether you're interested in helping with Bingo during the July 4th Celebration, supporting TRI Clear Lake, pouring wine or beer at Harvest Festival, or assisting behind the scenes, you can now find opportunities all in one place.

Find the volunteer opportunities [here](#) or contact Jenny Fasbender at 641-357-2159 or jennifer@clearlakeiowa.com to learn more.



Member Spotlight: Happy Trails Wrecker Service

When you're stuck on the side of the road, it's more than an inconvenience, it's a moment when you need someone you can trust. For 20 years, Happy Trails Wrecker Service has been that call for drivers across Clear Lake and North Iowa, showing up with experience, care, and a commitment to helping their neighbors.

Founded on March 1, 2006, by Larry and Bonnie Small, Happy Trails began out of their home on 32nd Street with a flatbed truck, years of experience, and a vision to serve the community.

Like many small businesses, the early years came with challenges, but their commitment to serving the community never wavered.

"It means a lot when people support small local businesses," Larry said. "Without that support, we wouldn't be here today, 20 years later."

In 2015, the next generation joined the business when Larry and Bonnie's son, Justin, and his wife, Gretchen, came on board. Today, Happy Trails remains a true family operation. Larry now serves in a consulting role, Bonnie manages the bookkeeping, and Justin and Gretchen help lead day-to-day operations. Gretchen's father, Richard "Gunny," is also part of the team.

With two young grandsons already part of the story, the future looks bright for this family-run business.

We caught up with Larry and Bonnie to learn more about their story:

Tell us a little about your business and what you do.

We are a towing business that provides services for vehicles and motorcycles in need of assistance, including accident recovery, jumpstarts, lockouts, winching, and towing classic cars. We can also haul a variety of items beyond vehicles. We take great pride in handling personal property with care during their time of need!

What inspired your family to start Happy Trails?

With many years of experience in the towing industry and already owning a flatbed truck, we felt we could provide a great service to our area through a family-run business.

What's one thing people might not know about your business?

We can tow more than just vehicles. If it fits on the truck bed and meets height requirements, we can haul it — even out of state. We also offer long-distance towing.

How long have you been a Chamber member, and why did you join?

We've been Chamber members since opening in 2006. We joined because we wanted to be part of the local business community in Clear Lake.

What do you love most about being part of the Clear Lake community?

We appreciate the many family-focused events that bring the community together throughout the year.

How has Chamber membership benefited you or your business?

Being a Chamber member has opened the door to connecting with other members, sharing our story, and supporting one another within the community.



What's the best piece of business advice you've received (or would give)?

From experience, we've learned the importance of having a backup plan for unexpected expenses, especially repairs. It's something every business owner will face at some point.

Just for fun — what's your favorite Clear Lake spot or activity outside of work?

We enjoy heading downtown and taking part in the many events held throughout the year.

When you see the Happy Trails crew out and about, be sure to give them a honk or a thumbs up and congratulate them on 20 years of serving the Clear Lake area community.

Our Member Spotlight showcases the people and businesses that make Clear Lake thrive. Each quarter, we'll feature one Chamber member to share their story, insights, and community connections in a quick Q-and-A.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Your continued investment in the Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce helps make this community a vibrant place to live, work and visit year-round. We understand that every business, organization and individual connects with the Chamber in different ways—and we're committed to meeting you where you are.

Whether you're here to promote your business, build relationships or simply support the community you care about, your membership makes a difference. Thank you for being part of this work and for helping us build a stronger Clear Lake.

80+ YEARS

CL Tel
Woodford Lumber & Home Company
Clear Lake Community Schools
Globe Gazette
Clear Lake Bank & Trust
Thrifty White Pharmacy
Clear Lake Noon Lions
North Iowa Area Community College
Midland Concrete Products
Veterans Memorial Golf Club

70+ YEARS

Lake Iowa Realty

65+ YEARS

Alliant Energy
Dean Snyder Construction Co.

60+ YEARS

One Vision

55+ YEARS

Fareway Meat & Grocery
Brant & Burselson CPAs

50+ YEARS

Oakwood Care Center
Clear Lake Evening Lions

45+ YEARS

First Gabrielson Agency
McDonald's Restaurant
The Other Place
Best Western Holiday Lodge

40+ YEARS

Laird Law Firm
Charlson Excavating Co., Inc.

35+ YEARS

Pritchard Companies
Oakwood RV Park LLC
Clear Lake Arts Center
Lake Dental Associates
Zion - Clear Lake

30+ YEARS

Subway
Clear Lake Boats
Ward-Van Slyke Colonial Chapel
RSM US LLP
Landfill of North Iowa
Bergland + Cram
Glen's Tire Service, Inc.
Hall Realty
United Methodist Church
St. Patrick Catholic Church
Heartland Asphalt, Inc.
United Beverage, LLC
Clear Lake Fishing Club
Bennigan's Clear Lake
Kabrick Distributing Co., Inc.
Rookies Rockin' Sports Bar
Seven's Restaurant & Steakhouse
CLB&T Insurance and Financial Services, Inc.
Truck Center Companies
Veterans of Foreign Wars

25+ YEARS

Moorman Clothiers
One Vision Thrift Store
PetroBlend Corporation

Atlantic Bottling Coca Cola
Printing Services, Inc.
The Red Geranium
North Iowa Golf L.L.C.
North Iowa Orthodontics
Kevan Cortright
Wayne's
Weathered Elements
North Iowa Collision Center, Inc.
Culver's of Clear Lake
MBT Bank
Meller Insurance & Consulting Services
Farmers State Bank
Starboard Market
Lake Town Charlie Brown
Preschool & Child Care
Kingland
Henkel Construction Company
North Iowa Air Service
Veenstra & Kimm, Inc.
Kenneth R. Brakke
Clear Lake Chiropractic Clinic
Deb Tesar
Culligan Water Conditioning
Clear Lake Yacht Club

20+ YEARS

Woodharbor Custom Cabinetry
Schoneman, REALTORS®
Connoisseur Media
Grain Vacs Inc.
City of Ventura
Martin Brothers Food Market
Cabin Coffee Company
Kinney Pioneer Museum
TQ Technologies
City of Clear Lake
Mediacom
Surf Ballroom
Apple Valley Place of Clear Lake
Bob's Marine Service, Inc.
Mason City Municipal Airport
Central Gardens of North Iowa
TTI, Inc.
Habitat for Humanity North
Central Iowa
Amadita G. Shaffer
KTTC & Fox 47
First Congregational Church
Edwards-Brandt & Associates
1ST Insurance Agency
Kirk and Beth Kraft
Happy Trails Wrecker Service

15+ YEARS

Flashing Thunder
Raymond James
Kiger Fine Jewelers
Larry & Helen Svoboda
Clear Lake Area Concert Association
Images Photography & Fine Art
Steve & Susan Nicklaus
Cookies, etc.
Coloff Media
Hogan - Hansen, P.C.
Clear Lake Church of Christ
Absolute Waste Removal
Charlie Zirbel
Athletico Physical Therapy
Larson's Mercantile
North Iowa Cooperative
Century 21 Preferred

Optimum Health Clinics
Cardinal Cleaning
Tupperware by Michelle Hartman-
Crazy Tupperware Lady
Lake Fireplace & Spa
Underwood Consulting

10+ YEARS

YSS of North Iowa
The Historic Park Inn Hotel
Pampered Chef
Clear Lake Jaycees
Association for the Preservation of
Clear Lake
North Iowa Events Center
Alice Hanley
Jim Hunt Electric LLC
American Solutions for Business
ITC Midwest
CLASS Car Club
Celebrations Party & Rental Store
Clear Lake Farmers Market
Marco Technologies, LLC
MJ'S Cheesecakes
Clear Lake Pediatric Dentistry
Shannon Latham
McKesson
Lake Time Boat Rentals
IOOF Home and Community
Therapy Center

5+ YEARS

Harvest Bible Chapel
Clear Lake Beach Cottages LLC
Share Life - Share Shop
Cerro Gordo County Farm Bureau
Roger & Lee Walston
Jane Fischer & Associates LLC
Accord Architecture
Midwest Duct Works/Iowa
Chimney
NIP Fitness
Kick USA Karate
Cerro Gordo County/CG Public
Health
Don's Body Shop
Poet - Hanlontown
Brickhouse Cottage
Northwestern Mutual
Swarty's, LLC
Midwest Sled Fest
Rachel Smith Books, LLC
MP Home Design
Card Custom Audio/Video
Hidden Lakes Campground
Legacy Ranch
Glen Oaks Community
Mason City Red Power Inc.
The Clausen House
Fairfield Inn & Suites and Clear
Lake Events Center
SEH, Inc.
3rd&Surf
MCT Construction L.L.C.
Studio 65 Tattoo
Lashier Graphics & Signs
Surf Ballroom Music Experience
Center
Grace & Strength Boutique
Gary Laabs

1+ YEARS

North Iowa Children's Museum
Merlyn and Julie Tiedemann

Brothers Ace Hardware
TAP'd
S and K Trailers
I-35 Auctions
Lehmann Family Dental
Reagan Outdoor Advertising
Curries - ASSA ABLOY
Shore Fun Rental
Cancun by the Lake
Titanium Lunchbox
Boyer Pool and Wellness Center
Payteva
14 Karat Studio
Deb Sharar
Next Generation Technologies,
LLC
Smokin' Mana's
Andi and Brian Tisor
The Scribblnn's
Fizz Co. Sips & Sweets
Scooter's Coffee
The Window Source of Mason City
Lake Life Rentals
Leadlight
Twnty Fore Seven - Indoor Golf &
Sports Lounge
The Fox Den
Lake Design & Co.
Legacy at the 19
Wells Fargo Advisors - John Rowe
North Shore Chiropractic
The Schoolhouse Vacation Rental
Midwest Construction
Travel Leaders / Destinations
Unlimited
Crisis Intervention Service
Main Event Catering
Dahley Designs
Blush Salon and Spa
O2 Laser Spa
ZenBusiness
Blooming Lotus Pottery
University of Clear Lake
Papa's Place By The Lake CL
Lake Pin & Play
Dazzling Diamonds
Katie Casey Designs
North Iowa Corridor Economic
Development Corporation
Valvoline Express Care / Roberts
Quick Lube
Pro Shield Epoxy LLC
Still Waters Day & Scalp Spa
Men's Acapella Chorus
Renewal by Andersen of Albert
Lea
Corn To Compass-Island Sailing
Adventures-
Creative Sound
T's Sweets
Mort's Water Company
Lillie Mae Chocolates
Marcy's Munchies
She Blooms Flower Farm
Cobb Construction, LLC
Georgette
Real Deals Home Decor &
Boutique
Clear Lake Getaway
Blazek Electric, Inc.
Iowa Independent Film Festival
M & R Lakeview, LLC
Quality Roofing

Welcome to this Quarter's New Members

Dandy's BBQ
215 S. Madison Ave.
Mason City, IA 50401
(641) 424-4944

Moe Socials
Clear Lake, IA 50428
(641) 512-1244

**Hope 4 Women
International Thrift Store**
35989 U.S. Hwy 69, Suite C
Forest City, IA 50436
(641) 251-4015

Joy Supply Co. Party Rentals
19786A 280 th St.
Mason City, IA 50401
(641) 541-2025

Phoenix Consulting
Mason City, IA 50401
(641) 420-0518

N. Eden Creative
Clear Lake, IA 50428
(515) 320-3997

Monster Eats
Clear Lake, IA 50428
(641) 220-2265

North Iowa Power Wash
Mason City, IA 50401
(641) 832-0348

Terri's Homecare
610 6th St. SE
Mason City, IA 50401
(641) 425-0390

Axis Therapy Centers
1020 Buddy Holly Pl.
Clear Lake, IA 50428
(641) 352-7671

Cookie Dough'tique
Charles City, IA 50616
(641) 330-0350

Lake Bookkeeping
211 S. 3rd St.
Clear Lake, IA 50428
(507) 837-9026

Oh, Yum
Garner, IA 50438
(641) 430-1584

Kitchenezz with Lynne V.
113 N. Madison Ave.
Mason City, IA 50401
(641) 420-8348

Vonderohe Bees
13 N. Madison Ave.
Mason City, IA 50401
(641) 430-8673

Hall's Homemade Kitchen
746 342nd St.
Hanlontown, IA 50444
(641) 797-2100

News + Updates

Anderly completes first at the Institute for Organization Management

Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce and North Iowa Corridor Economic Development Corp. Marketing Specialist Maddie Anderly completed her first year at Institute for Organization Management, a four-year nonprofit leadership training program at Winter Institute in Tucson, Arizona, earlier this year.

"One of the most valuable parts of the experience was building connections with chamber leaders from across Iowa and around the country — sharing ideas, challenges, and solutions that we can bring back to our own communities," Anderly said. "The sessions covered a wide range of timely topics, all of which were incredibly relevant and immediately applicable to the work we're doing. Overall, it was an energizing experience that reinforced the importance of collaboration and continuous learning in advancing our region."

Since its commencement in 1921, the Institute program has been educating tens of thousands of association, chamber, and other nonprofit leaders on how to build stronger organizations, better serve their members and become strong business advocates. Institute's curriculum consists of four weeklong sessions at four different university locations throughout the country. Through a combination of required courses and electives in areas such as leadership, advocacy, marketing, finance, and membership, Institute participants are able to enhance their own organizational management skills and add new fuel to their organizations, making them run more efficiently and effectively.

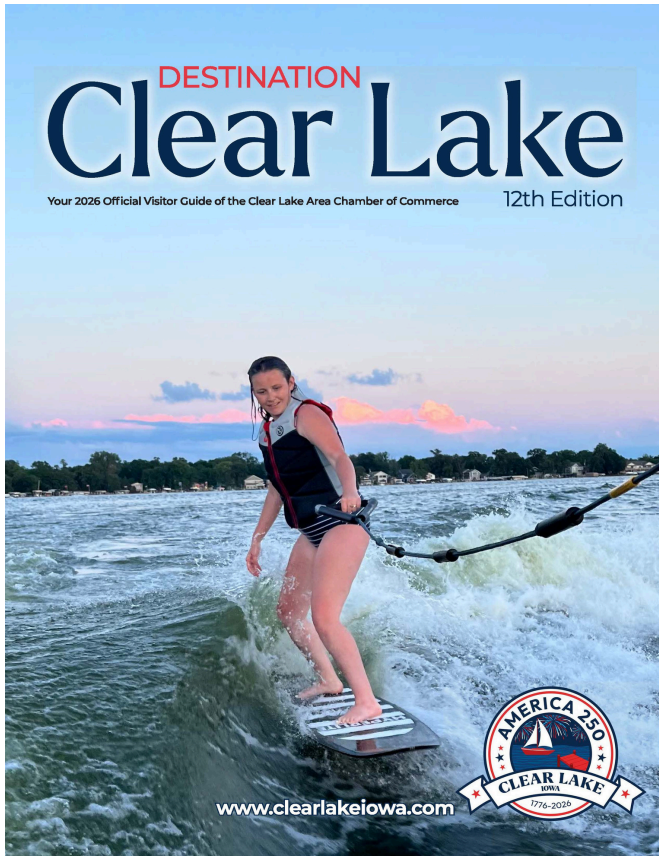
Institute for Organization Management is the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's premier nonprofit professional development program for association and chamber professionals.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is the world's largest business organization.

U.S. Chamber of Commerce



Destination CL Reveal



The 2026 Destination Clear Lake – The Official Clear Lake Visitor Guide arrived early to mailboxes on Tuesday, Jan. 6, ahead of its official launch during the Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce’s Annual Meeting & Awards Celebration at the Surf Ballroom.

The guide was the culmination of months of behind-the-scenes preparation, organization and content creation led by Tourism Director Libbey Hohn to showcase what makes Clear Lake special for residents and visitors alike.

This year’s cover photo, taken by Maddie Anderly, features Ana Starbeck, a Clear Laker, wakeboarding on the city’s nearly 3,700-acre namesake.

The visitor guide is packed with everything you need to plan your visit, including a full lineup of 2026 events, free family fun, information about the local parks, and lots of great images to inspire the next Clear Lake adventure.

This year’s visitor guide was designed and printed by Farm and Home Publishers of Clear Lake.

The Chamber prints and distributes 40,000 Destination Clear Lake visitor guides each year.

Request a 2026 Destination Clear Lake Visitor Guide to be mailed to you or view a digital edition of it [here](#).

A difficult but necessary decision for Color the Wind

The Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce made the difficult decision to cancel the 2026 Color the Wind Kite Festival in February due to unsafe ice conditions on Clear Lake.

After closely monitoring conditions in partnership with local safety officials, it was determined that the ice is not stable enough to safely host the event. The festival is traditionally held on the frozen lake, and ice safety is essential for both attendees and performers.

“Safety has always been our top priority,” Events Director Trish Fundermann said. “Without confidence in the ice conditions near the shoreline, we cannot move forward with the event.”

Fundermann and the Color the Wind Committee explored the possibility of relocating the festival to land; however, several logistical challenges made that option unfeasible. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations require kite flying to take place at least four miles from the airport, limiting available locations. In addition, no alternative site could accommodate the size of the event, including necessary space, parking, and access to electricity for operations.

Color the Wind is one of the Midwest’s most unique winter festivals, drawing visitors from



across the region to experience large-scale kite displays over the frozen lake. Planning for the event takes months, and the decision to cancel was not made lightly.

A special thank you to the event’s sponsors, including ATURA Architecture, Bank Iowa, Cabin Coffee, CL Tel, Clear Lake Bank & Trust, Clear Lake Rotary Club, Clear Lake Noon Lions, Cookies etc., Curries ASSA-ABLOY, Fareway, Hall Realty, Laird Law Firm, Larson’s Mercantile, Livonia’s Coffee Bar, NextEra Energy, Rookies Rockin’ Sports Bar, Sevens Restaurant & Steakhouse, TAP’d, Scooters Coffee, Surf Ballroom & Museum, The Other Place and Titan Pro.

The Chamber appreciates the continued support and enthusiasm from the community and looks forward to welcoming visitors back for the festival on Feb. 20, 2027.

Building a Bright Future: Chamber celebrates leadership, impact

The Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce brought together business and community leaders at its Building a Bright Future Annual Meeting, Visitor Guide Launch and Awards Celebration on Thursday, Jan. 15, at the Surf Ballroom & Museum.

More than 230 people, representing more than 50 member businesses and organizations, attended the afternoon event that featured a happy hour and appetizers, awards presentation, and progressive Chamber bingo to raise funds for its "Building a Bright Future" capital campaign.

The 2025 award recipients are as follows:

Starboard Market, Business of the Year

This award honors a business that consistently uplifts our community through quality, service, and generosity. Starboard isn't just a delicious lunch spot, it's a place that brings people together, sparks joy, and leads with heart.

Gyro Place, Entrepreneur of the Year

Yeshua and Raul Juarez have turned Gyro Place into a downtown favorite, and they're always among the first to step up and support the Clear Lake community. This award honors bold ideas, relentless hard work, and the kind of creativity that turns vision into impact. The Juarez brothers and their family embody all of that and more.

North Iowa Community Action Organization, Spirit of North Iowa

This award recognizes people and organizations who strengthen our region through trust, collaboration, and service. NICA0 has done this work compassionately for 50+ years to make a positive difference in North Iowa.

Taylor Barragy, Larry Luker Volunteer of the Year

The Larry Luker Volunteer of the Year Award was created to recognize an individual or group whose volunteer efforts have made a significant impact on the North Iowa area. Taylor's reliability, positive attitude, and genuine love for this community reflects the very best volunteerism.

Drew Walswick, First Mate of the Year

The First Mate of the Year is an individual who demonstrates significant contributions to the Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce during the preceding year both in attendance and engagement. Drew has shown up with consistency, humility, and heart, and it doesn't go unnoticed.

Nelson Crabb, Service Above Self Award

This year's Service Above Self Award was presented in recognition of a leader who has spent decades serving with quiet strength, steady humility, and a deep love for his community. Nelson never sought the spotlight, but he always showed up, led with heart, and put Clear Lake first.

In addition to the awards presentation, the Chamber named three new Chamber Board members, recognized outgoing board members, and announced its 2026 board officers.

Those new to the board are Phil Meekins, Curries ASSA-ABLOY; Andy Meyer, Bergland + Cram and Plain Ol' Pumpkins; and Nicole Olson, First Citizens Bank.

The Chamber Board and officers for 2026 were introduced: Robert Barber, Cabin Coffee Company and 2026 Chair and Vice Chair of Tourism and Marketing; Mark Dodd, One Vision and Past Chair; Natalie Plagge, Clear Lake Bank & Trust and Chair Elect; Liz LeFevre, First Gabrielson Agency and Treasurer; Krystal Thoe, Legacy Healthcare and Vice Chair of Membership; Austin Pehl, ATURA Architecture; Carrie Shannon, Hall Realty; Amanda Kasten, Kingland; Chris Fischer, Athletico Physical Therapy; Candi Karsjens, NIACC John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center; Ben Nedved, 173° Craft Distillery; Collin Davison, Laird Law Firm; Vernon Johnson, CL Tel; Michael Knorr, Accord Architecture; and Pam Pitkin, MBT Bank.

Sarah Nielsen, First Citizens Bank; Kristi Miles, Pritchard's Lake Chevrolet; and Ryan Amble, Curries ASSA-ABLOY; retired from the board.



Starboard Market, Business of the Year



Gyro Place, Entrepreneurs of the Year



North Iowa Community Action Organization, Spirit of North Iowa



Taylor Barragy, Larry Luker Volunteer of the Year



Drew Walswick, First Mate of the Year



Nelson Crabb, Service Above Self

TRI Clear Lake shifts from Memorial Day weekend to late summer



If you're used to seeing TRI Clear Lake take over Memorial Day weekend, you may notice something different this year. The Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce has moved the 2026 TRI Clear Lake Triathlon to Saturday, Aug. 29.

The shift comes after feedback from participants, with the later date offering warmer water, more consistent weather conditions, and additional time for training and open-water swim practice throughout the summer.

Moving the event off Memorial Day weekend — already a busy time in Clear Lake and across North Iowa — also creates another opportunity to welcome visitors later in the season and generate an additional strong weekend for local businesses. The weekend will kick off with the Youth Splash & Dash on Friday, Aug. 28.



The change is also expected to provide more flexibility in recruiting volunteers. TRI Clear Lake requires more than 200 volunteers to safely and successfully host the event each year.

The 2026 race also marks a milestone as the 10th TRI Clear Lake Triathlon and will once again serve as a USA Triathlon State Championship race.

While you won't see the event this spring, we look forward to welcoming athletes, volunteers, and spectators back to Clear Lake later this summer for an exciting race weekend. There is still time to register for the event [here](#).

Lake Leadership Class of 2026 nears graduation

The Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce's Lake Leadership Class of 2026, comprising 24 individuals representing area businesses across North Iowa, is in its final months.

Lake Leadership is the Chamber's flagship program, meeting once a month from September through May on the third Wednesday. The program is designed to educate civic-minded individuals by using the community as a classroom. Participants go behind the scenes in the Clear Lake area, gaining opportunities to network with peers and learn more about the community and area businesses.

In January, the class got an inside look into Clear Lake's thriving businesses and industries during "Made in Clear Lake Day." In February, they learned the broader impact of agriculture on the local economy and society during Agriculture Day, and March, the class participated in North Iowa Day on the Hill in Des Moines.

In April, they'll gain insight into the workings of our local government and the services their tax dollars support, like law enforcement, emergency services, water quality and more, before graduating in May while making up portions of Economic Development Day and Business and Industry Day.

The Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce thanks its member businesses for helping make Lake Leadership a program that's talked about for years to come.

Interested in growing as a leader while learning more about the Clear Lake area? Applications for the Lake Leadership Class of 2027 will open later this year. Email Stacy Doughan at stacy@clearlakeiowa.com to learn more. Space is limited and usually fills up quickly.



Rising Tides Lake Leadership Alumni Program RECAP

The Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce hosted its second Rising Tides: Lake Leadership Alumni Program on Friday, Feb. 13, at McKesson in Clear Lake.

About 30 alumni gathered for lunch, a leadership message from Brad Barber, co-owner of Cabin Coffee and founder and CEO of United to Serve with Passion and Purpose, and an optional guided tour of McKesson's 340,000-square-foot Clear Lake distribution facility.

This new initiative is designed to bring together graduates of our flagship leadership program, offering opportunities to stay connected, learn, and continue making an impact in our community.

February's event was the second of what the Lake Leadership Alumni Committee hopes will be quarterly alumni programs featuring networking, education, and unique experiences at area businesses and organizations. Keep your eyes out for upcoming programs in May, July, and October.

Want to connect with other Lake Leadership Alumni, but aren't sure where to start? We've created a Facebook group called [Rising Tides: Lake Leadership Alumni](#) and we'd love to see it used as a place for our graduates to connect, or in some cases reconnect, with each other.

Have an idea for an alumni gathering? Feel free to reach out to Stacy Doughan at stacy@clearlakeiowa.com or Ashley Weiss at ashley@clearlakeiowa.com.



North Iowa shows up at the Capitol

Members of the Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce's Lake Leadership class recently joined Leadership North Iowa and regional partners at the Iowa State Capitol for North Iowa Day on the Hill.

Participants toured the Capitol, heard from Iowa Chamber Alliance Executive Director Dustin Miller on key issues impacting North Iowa, and experienced the region's advocacy work firsthand. The day was filled with meaningful conversations and strong representation, with opportunities to connect directly with legislators to share priorities and advocate for the businesses and communities we serve.

A highlight of the day was seeing Lake Leadership and Leadership North Iowa participants actively engaged in the process — gaining a firsthand look at how public policy is shaped and how business leaders can play a role in influencing it.

The day offered valuable insight into the power of collaboration and the importance of showing up, speaking up, and working together to move North Iowa forward.

Take a look at the day's activities [here](#).



Three new faces join Chamber First Mates

Andrew Cobb, owner of Cobb Construction; Colton Clark, project designer at ATURA Architecture; and Lisa Prochaska, loan officer at Farmers State Bank, are the newest members of the Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce First Mates.

The First Mates, or ambassadors, play an important role in promoting the Chamber's mission among members and throughout the community. You'll find them celebrating member businesses at ribbon cuttings, groundbreaking, and events, as well as volunteering at Chamber events and helping deliver community calendars.

Please join us in giving them a warm welcome when you see them out and about representing the Chamber.

In addition to welcoming new members, we've also had First Mates step away in recent months, including Zarren Egesdal of Creative Sound, Krystal Thoe of Legacy Healthcare, and Amanda Korenberg of Stephany Insurance. We are incredibly grateful for the time, energy, and heart they've given to the Chamber. Their support has made a meaningful impact, and while we're sad to see them go, we understand that seasons change. They will always be a valued part of our Chamber story.

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a First Mate, please email to Stacy Doughan at stacy@clearlakeiowa.com.



Andrew Cobb
Cobb Construction



Colton Clark
ATURA Architecture



Lisa Prochaska
Farmers State Bank

Chamber team participates in Venture School, earns award



The Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce recently participated in Venture School through the NIACC John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center, culminating in a Launch Day competition on March 26 with seven teams.

After seven weeks of virtual training, customer discovery, and business development alongside local entrepreneur coaches, the Chamber team — Libbey Hohn, Maddie Anderly, and Stacy Doughan — earned the Best Non-Profit Award for their Clear Lake Chamber Marketing Studio concept.

The idea centers on a member-exclusive, package-based service offering strategic marketing support and hands-on content creation to help local businesses save time and connect more effectively with customers.

Venture School, a statewide program through the University of Iowa Venture School, is designed to help entrepreneurs test ideas in real time by engaging directly with customers and refining their business models through hands-on learning.

A special thank you goes to the more than 60 Chamber members who shared thoughtful insights during the team's customer discovery interviews, your input helped shape this concept. Stay tuned!

Entrepreneurs interested in participating in a future cohort of Venture School or serving as a coach are encouraged to contact Ashley Page at ashley.page@niacc.edu.

Chamber CEO takes the stage for record-breaking Dancing for the Dream

Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Stacy Doughan took the stage alongside Amy Hogg, Bank Iowa Community Bank President, during this year's Dancing for the Dream.

The event, hosted by 43 North Iowa, took place Saturday, March 28, at the Surf Ballroom & Museum and raised more than \$200,000 — its most successful year to date. Dancing for the Dream is 43 North Iowa's signature fundraiser, blending a "Dancing with the Stars"-style competition with an evening of energy, entertainment, and purpose. Proceeds support North Iowans with disabilities as they work toward independence, meaningful employment, and strong community connections.

Doughan and Hogg's energetic performance to Queen's "Don't Stop Me Now" earned them the Best Use of Props award.

The sold-out event featured unforgettable performances, creative fundraising efforts, and incredible community support, all coming together to make a meaningful impact.

Missed it or want to relive it? Watch the video online [here](#).



Chamber & Welcome Center project nears completion



Exciting progress continues at the new Chamber & Welcome Center at 205 Main Ave., with several key interior elements coming together in recent weeks.

Crews have been finishing the ceiling grid throughout the building, with lighting now installed on the first floor. Cabinets and countertops are also being installed, including at the front desk in the main-level visitor center.

A standout feature taking shape is the acoustic wave ceiling in the second-level boardroom—bringing both function and visual impact to the space.

In the basement, preparations are underway for the next phase of work, including painting and epoxy coating on the walls and floors.

Furniture, appliances and merchandise have been ordered, and some neat visual elements have been decided.

With each passing week, the building is moving closer to completion. The Chamber team plans to move back into the space in early May and be fully operational by Memorial Day weekend.

We look forward to welcoming members, residents, and visitors into this new space soon and will continue to share updates as the project nears the finish line.



Learn more about the project, view floor plans or donate at www.clearlakeiowa.com/future.

Thank you to our three outgoing board members!



Sarah Nielsen
First Citizens Bank



Kristi Miles
Pritchard's Lake Chevrolet



Ryan Amble
Curries-ASSA ABLOY

The Chamber appreciates the time and talents Sarah Nielsen, Kristi Miles, and Ryan Amble have dedicated to the Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce as board members, including their support of the Building A Bright Future capital campaign for the new Chamber and Welcome Center, which opens in May.

Welcome New Board Members

In January, three new and three returning board members started their three-year terms on the Chamber Board of Directors.



Phil Meekins
Curries-ASSA
ABLOY



Austin Pehl
ATURA
Architecture



Krystal Thoe
Legacy
Healthcare



Liz LeFevre
First Gabrielson
Agency



Andy Meyer
Bergland +
Cram | Plain
Ol' Pumpkins



Nicole Olson
First Citizens
Bank



Clear Lake

Area Chamber of Commerce

**Board of Directors
2026**

Robert Barber, Board Chair and Vice
Chair, Tourism and Marketing
Cabin Coffee Company

Mark Dodd, Past Chair
One Vision

Natalie Plagge, Chair Elect
Clear Lake Bank & Trust

Liz LeFevre, Treasurer
First Gabrielson Agency

Krystal Thoe, Vice Chair, Membership
Legacy Healthcare

Carrie Shannon
Hall Realty

Amanda Kasten
Kingland

Chris Fischer
Athletico Physical Therapy

Candi Karsjens
NIACC John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial
Center

Ben Nedved
173° Craft Distillery

Phil Meekins
Curries-ASSA ABLOY

Collin Davison
Laird Law Firm

Vernon Johnson
CL Tel

Michael Knorr
Accord Architecture

Pam Pitkin
MBT Bank

Austin Pehl
ATURA Architecture

Andy Meyer
Bergland + Cram | Plain Ol' Pumpkins

Nicole Olson
First Citizens Bank

Questions? We're here to help!



Stacy Doughan, IOM
President/CEO
stacy@clearlakeiowa.com, 641-355-4150

Ribbon Cuttings, Groundbreakings, Business After Hours, Membership, Sponsorships, Local Marketing



Libbey Hohn, IOM
Tourism Director
libbey@clearlakeiowa.com, 641-355-4153

Destination Clear Lake Visitor Guide and clearlakeiowa.com, Visitor Center, Meetings and Conventions Assistance and Tourism Marketing



Trish Fundermann
Events Director
trish@clearlakeiowa.com, 641-355-4152

Email Blast Ads, Bulk Mailings, Event Sponsorships, Entertainment Bookings



Jenny Fasbender
Administrative and Events Specialist
jennifer@clearlakeiowa.com, 641-355-4156

Vendor Applications, Volunteer Opportunities and General Billing



Ashley Weiss
Membership Engagement Director
ashley@clearlakeiowa.com, 641-355-4151

New Member Applications, Online Business Directory Listing, Community Event or Job Postings, Member Benefits and Newsletter



Maddie Anderly
Marketing Specialist
manderly@northiowacorridor.com, 641-355-4155

Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok Social Media Marketing, North Iowa Corridor EDC Marketing, Website, and Newsletter

Thanks to our President's Level Members!

Champion



Investor



BUILDING A BRIGHT FUTURE

Legacy \$120,000+



Visionary \$60,000-119,999



Cornerstone \$25,000-59,999



Michael L. Peterson
Foundation

Champion \$15,000-24,999

Cabin Coffee Company
Pro Wall

Advocate \$5,000-14,999

Bergland + Cram
Bergvig Family
Bertha Stebens Charitable Fund
Dr. Robert Borgman
Tony & Amy Brownlee
Clear Lake Rotary Club
City of Ventura
Clear Lake Chamber Team
Heartland Asphalt,
George & Jayne Jessen
Hogan – Hansen, P.C.
Alice Hanley
Larson's Mercantile
Pla-ground Family Farms
Mark & Deb Tesar
Charles J. Walker

Partner \$2,500-4,999

Collin & Kristin Davison
Tom Drew, Drew Law Firm
Potter & Brandt, PLC

Supporter \$1,000-2,499

ABCM Corporation
Absolute Waste Removal
Branded by American
Pam & Tim Coffey In Honor of Nelson Crabb
Brad & Renee Davis
Ron & Kathy Fiscus
Karen & John Gookin
The Hawley Family
In Memory of Bob and Alice Hawley
Stuart & Julie Ottrogge
Overhead Door Co. of Mason City
Mary Kay & Randy Pearce
Robert & Maryanne Rennebohn
Lu Ann Schell Revocable Trust
Bennett Smith
TQ Technologies
Roger & Lee Walston
Pat & Joe Weigel
Joe & Kristi Wick

Friend (Up to \$999)

Jon & Talitha Allen Kristin Avery Mark & Jill Bale Tom & Sue Berger Daniel & Pamela Bollinger Glenn & Rosemary Brady Jane Broghammer Ken & Cyndi Chizek C.L.A.S.S. Car Cub Matt & Jody Clemens In Memory of Don Clemens Mark & Becke Dorenbush Doug & Dawn Doughan Gus & Janet Erickson In Memory of Don Hauge Troyce Fisher & Deb Groath Dennis & Teresa Fitzgerald Glen's Tire Gary Harris Dean Hanson & Joni Frederick Jerry & Laura Heitland John & Kathy Hendricks Doyce Hiscocks I-35 Auctions Iceburg Coaching Clear Lake Jaycees In Memory of Donald & Carol Markham Jim Jackson Ric Jacobs Joni Jacobs Bill & Linda Jarnagin James & Nancy Kelsey Lawrence "Bud" King In Memory of Kay King John & Beth Kjeldgaard In Memory of Bill Otterman Robert Koester In Honor of John Henn Auction Service	Thurston & Joanne Lamberson Megan Liddle Dee & Marv Lonnevik Jon & Linda Matson Lloyd Dale McNair Carol Meindl In Memory of Brian Meindl Meints Construction Builders Morris Family Fund Kathy Norris Gary Oehlert In Memory of Howard & Verna Oehlert Joshua Peterson Rick Prohaska & Pam Hoskins Mary Richardson Alice Ruby Kirby & Joyce Schmidt Beth Ann Schumacher Sindlinger Family Foundation Betty Soukup Dave & Karen Stumme In Memory of Leonard & Eileen Stumme Robert & Jane Sturges Polly & Dave Sunken Diana Symonds Jill & Mike Tarr Randall Thomas Kimberly & Lawrence Thompson Brian & Andi Tisor Sanda Treadway Wilma Vantuyl Veterans of Foreign Wars - Post 4868 Jerry Voigts Brian F. & Kathleen K. Ward In Memory of Brian E. Ward Rachel Wumkes Zion Lutheran Women Barbara Zrostlik Beyer
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2025 DIGITAL IMPACT

Over 13 Million Views

Across Facebook, Instagram, TikTok & YouTube

Top 3 Audience Locations: Clear Lake, Mason City, and Des Moines



12.1M Views

1.1M

Reach

121.6K

Engagements

24K

Followers

Audience Demographics

46% Ages: 35-64 | 71% Female 29% Male

Our largest and most engaged platform — connecting businesses and community stories across North Iowa and beyond.



610.6K Views

114.4K

Reach

16.7K

Engagements

5.2K

Followers

Audience Demographics

48% Ages: 25-54 | 70% Female 30% Male

Showcasing Clear Lake's lifestyle and experiences through vibrant, visual storytelling.



337K Views

16.4K

Engagements

2.2K

Followers

Audience Demographics

53% Ages: 18-44 | 68% Female 32% Male

Connecting with the next generation through fun, authentic, and shareable content.



61.1K Views

303.4

Watch Hours

300

Subscribers

Audience Demographics

43% Ages: 25-34 | 52% Female 48% Male

Growing library of event highlights, community features, and destination storytelling.

clearlakeiowa.com

244K

Active Users

373K

Sessions

141K

Organic Search

Email Marketing

335.9K

Sends

46%

Open Rate

3%

Click Rate