



# 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 | Sept. 18

It was a great morning of community and connection at our Quarterly Coffee on Friday, Sept. 18, at the Surf Ballroom & Museum.

Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce President & CEO Stacy Doughan, Clear Lake Community School District Superintendent Ian Dye, North Iowa Corridor Economic Development Corp. Vice President of Housing & Community Development Shelley Oltmans, and Clear Lake City Administrator Steve Diers shared updates on their respective organizations and the latest happenings around the community.

Attendees also welcomed new Chamber members and employees, celebrated business milestones, and learned about upcoming community events. We even had a surprise visit from a friendly ghost from the Clear Lake Public Library and Clear Lake Historical Society, who stopped by to promote the upcoming Walking with the Spirits event!

Miss the event? Catch the full Quarterly Coffee video [online](#), and mark your calendar for our next Quarterly Coffee on Dec. 18!

## Upcoming Chamber Events

### Saturday, Oct. 3 | 9 AM

Champagne 5K  
Downtown Clear Lake

➔ Kick off Harvest Festival with the fun Champagne 5K walk/run featuring bubbly. Sign up for the Champagne 5K [here](#)!

### Saturday, Oct. 4 | 9 AM-4 PM

Harvest Festival

Downtown Clear Lake

➔ Enjoy wine and beer samples, shopping, vendors and a huge outdoor farmers market. Don't forget about the homemade salsa contest, grape stomp competition, food trucks, live music, hay rides and more!

### Fridays, Oct. 9, Nov. 13 and Dec. 11 | 10-11 AM

Monthly Senior Chamber Coffee  
Clear Lake Area Chamber & Welcome Center, 205 Main Ave.

➔ Enjoy coffee, treats, and conversation while staying connected to the Chamber and community through updates from President & CEO Stacy Doughan and occasional guest speakers. Interested in joining us? Contact [ashley@clearlakeiowa.com](mailto:ashley@clearlakeiowa.com) to learn more.

### Tuesday, Oct. 13 | 9 AM-4 PM

North Iowa Regional Marketing Summit  
Surf Ballroom, 460 North Shore Dr.

Join marketing professionals, business owners, nonprofit leaders and others from across North Iowa for a day of practical learning, fresh ideas and meaningful connections. \$75 Chamber members | \$100 non-members.

### Wednesday, Oct. 14-Thursdays, Oct. 15

IACC Fall Conference: Lead Like A Rockstar  
Surf Ballroom Music Experience Center, 460 North Shore Dr.

➔ Clear Lake Area Chamber members are invited to join Chamber professionals from across Iowa for leadership development, networking and fresh ideas to take back to their organizations and communities. \$250 IACC members | \$325 non-IACC members. Register [here](#).

### Friday, Oct. 16 | 10-11 AM

Membership 101  
Chamber, 205 Main Ave.  
Learn how to maximize your member benefits, optimize your business directory listing, and more. RSVP to [stacy@clearlakeiowa.com](mailto:stacy@clearlakeiowa.com).

### Tuesday, Oct. 20 | 4:30-6 PM

Business After Hours  
Lake View Twist & Deli and Lake View Pub, 18 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> St.

➔ Join us for an evening of networking, great food, drinks and plenty of fun! Check out both businesses, connect with fellow Chamber members and enjoy a fun night out along the lake.

### Friday, Oct. 23 | 11:30 AM-1 PM

Rising Tides: Lake Leadership Alumni Program in the Surf District  
The Palms Rooftop Cabana, 464 North Shore Dr.

➔ Reconnect with fellow Lake Leadership alumni while getting an inside look at the continued transformation of Clear Lake's Surf District. Hear updates on the district's revitalization, the Music Experience Center and new Oaks Hotel development, including a sneak peek tour, while learning how community partnerships are helping move these projects forward. Lunch and networking included. Register [here](#).

(More Upcoming Events on next page)

**Fridays, Nov. 13 and Dec. 11 | 11 AM-Noon**

Social Media Power Hour  
Chamber, 205 Main Ave.

➡ Bring your laptop, phone, content ideas, or questions for this collaborative work session. Get help creating posts, writing captions, editing reels, and checking a few items off your social media to-do list. Chamber members only. Questions? Email [libbey@clearlakeiowa.com](mailto:libbey@clearlakeiowa.com).

**Tuesday, Nov. 17 | 4:30-6 PM**

Business After Hours

Hair Avenue, 2301 3rd Ave. S.

➡ Save the date! Hair Avenue will host our November Business After Hours. Make plans to join us for an evening of networking and connection with fellow Chamber members. More details coming soon!

**Saturday, Nov. 28**

Small Business Saturday  
Throughout Clear Lake

➡ Shop small and support the businesses that make Clear Lake special! Spend the day shopping, dining and exploring locally, and help show some love to the small businesses that support our community all year long.

**Friday, Dec. 4 | 5:30 PM**

Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony  
City Park Bandshell

➡ Help us kick off Christmas by the Lake weekend with the annual tree lighting ceremony in City Park! Enjoy local talent, holiday cheer and maybe even a special appearance from Santa as we light the tree and officially welcome the Christmas season to Clear Lake.

**Saturday, Dec. 5**

Christmas by the Lake

Downtown Clear Lake

➡ Kick off the holiday season with this family-friendly event featuring horse-drawn carriage rides, a petting zoo, a visit with Santa and more as well as a lighted parade and fireworks over the frozen lake.

**Tuesday, Dec. 15 | 4:30-6 PM**

Business After Hours

Clear Lake Arts Center, 17 S. 4<sup>th</sup> St.

➡ Save the date! Hall Realty will host our December Business After Hours. Join us for some holiday cheer, networking and connection with fellow Chamber members as we wrap up another year together. More details coming soon!

**Friday, Dec. 18 | 7:30-9 AM**

Quarterly Coffee | Holiday Edition  
Surf Lounge, 460 North Shore Dr.

➡ Join us for our final Quarterly Coffee of 2026, sponsored by Cabin Coffee Company! Get in the holiday spirit with seasonal treats and our annual ugly/pretty Christmas sweater contest. Have a new hire, promotion, award, recognition or event you'd like to share? Email [ashley@clearlakeiowa.com](mailto:ashley@clearlakeiowa.com) to get on the agenda.

## SAVE THE DATE

**Thursday, Jan. 21, 2027 | 2-4:30 PM**

Annual Meeting, Awards

Celebration & Visitor Guide Launch

Surf Ballroom, 460 North Shore Dr.

Join us as we celebrate another year of Chamber and community accomplishments, recognize this year's award recipients and unveil the 2027 Destination Clear Lake Visitor Guide. Mark your calendar and plan to celebrate with us! Additional details and registration information will be shared at a later date.

# Ribbon Cuttings



**Lakehouse Market | Wednesday, July 22**



**KT Facilitation | Thursday, Aug. 13**



**Images Photography Art Gallery | Thursday, Aug. 13**



**Gummy's Cookies | Friday, Aug. 14**

**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](mailto:stacy@clearlakeiowa.com) to get your ribbon cutting or groundbreaking on the calendar.

# Educational Opportunities

## NORTH IOWA REGIONAL MARKETING SUMMIT DEBUTS OCT. 13

Marketing is changing quickly, but some of the best ideas still come from getting in a room with other people doing the work.

The Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce and Greater Mason City Chamber of Commerce are teaming up for the inaugural North Iowa Regional Marketing Summit, Tuesday, Oct. 13, at the Surf Ballroom.

Designed for marketing professionals, business owners, nonprofit leaders, tourism professionals and anyone responsible for telling their organization's story, the Summit will offer a full day of practical learning, fresh ideas and meaningful connections.

The day includes keynote speaker Lauren Ready, interactive sessions focused on storytelling and strategy, a high-energy marketing panel, attendee idea exchange and



real-world marketing wins from local business leaders. Registration also includes morning refreshments, lunch, an afternoon dessert break, exhibitor booths and networking.

Tickets are \$75 for Chamber members and \$100 for non-members. To learn more and register, [click here](#).

### PRESENTING SPONSOR:



### KEYNOTE SPEAKER SPONSOR:



### LUNCH SPONSOR:



**SESSION SPONSORS INCLUDE** Colwell Motors of Mason City, Community Health Center of Mason City, Connoisseur Media, and Midwest Duct Works.

**SUPPORTING SPONSORS INCLUDE** Bank Iowa, Bergland+Cram, Branded by ASB, Clear Lake Bank & Trust, Farm & Home Publishers, Henkel Construction, Homestead Assisted Living, Lake Effect, Mason City Roofing, Moe Socials, Nelson Media Company, North Iowa Corridor EDC, Overhead Door Company of Mason City, Phoenix Consulting, Reagan Outdoor-Cori Frein.

## BIG IDEAS FOR THE PLACES WE CALL HOME.

Connect. Learn. Leave inspired.

### RURAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

Thursday, October 22, 2026 | NIACC



## RURAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE COMING TO NIACC

**Thursday, Oct. 22 | 8 AM-3:30 PM | NIACC**

Big ideas can make a big impact close to home! Join business leaders and community partners for NIACC's Rural Development Conference, featuring breakout sessions, opportunities to connect and a keynote from leadership expert Dima Ghawi. The conference is presented in partnership with NIACC Business & Workforce Solutions, First Citizens Bank, and NIACC John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center. Registration is \$29 and includes lunch. To learn more and to register, click [here](#).

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION CERTIFICATION FOR LODGING PROPERTIES

Lodging properties that wish to host government travelers using public funds must complete human trafficking prevention certification, with all employees successfully completing certified training.

Even if government or business travel isn't typically part of your lodging business, this certification is worth being aware of. Human trafficking prevention is especially important in our region due to our proximity to major interstate travel corridors. Learn more and get certified [here](#).

## NIACC PAPPAJOHN'S VENTURE LAUNCH LAB RETURNS IN 2027

Venture Launch Lab is a comprehensive, training program where aspiring and early-stage business owners build the knowledge, systems, and confidence needed to confidently launch, manage and grow a sustainable business. 2027 dates to be determined. Contact Ashley Page at [ashley.page@niacc.edu](mailto:ashley.page@niacc.edu) for details or visit [here](#).

# Member Spotlight: Stephany Insurance

Founded by Tom Stephany in 2010, Stephany Insurance helps individuals, families and businesses manage risk and protect what matters most.

With locations in Clear Lake and Iowa Falls, the independent insurance agency offers auto, home, business, farm, health and life insurance, with an emphasis on getting to know each client and finding coverage that fits their individual needs.

That personal approach extends beyond insurance, too, with the Stephany Insurance team supporting local programs and staying actively connected to the communities they serve.

We caught up with Stephany to learn more about Stephany Insurance, what he values about doing business in Clear Lake and the simple piece of advice that has guided his career.

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

We help people manage risk, with a choice of many insurance companies for auto, home and business insurance.

## **What inspired the start of Stephany Insurance?**

A love for insurance, and a passion for working with the Clear Lake community.

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

We support many local programs such as youth baseball/softball/soccer as well as the Kids Café to name a few.

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

13 years and simply to be strongly connected to our business peers.

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

We love the small town feel of knowing our customers by name.

## **How has Chamber membership benefited you or your business?**

It is a great group of forward thinking people and the volunteer opportunities allow us to work together.

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

Do what you say you are going to do, every time.

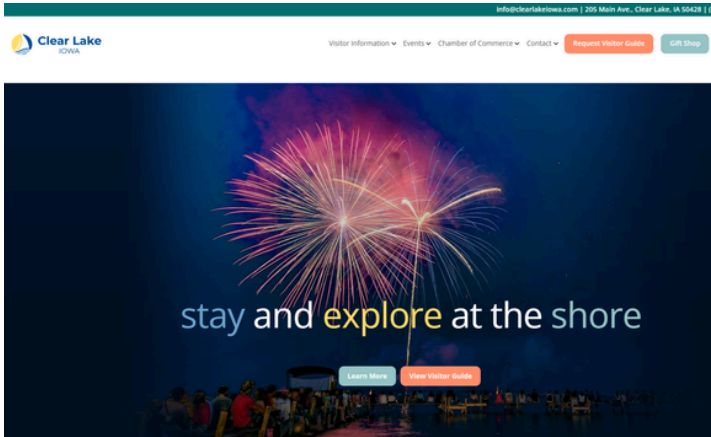
## **Just for fun — what's your favorite Clear Lake spot or activity outside of work?**

Fishing at the end of my dock.

*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.*



## 3 Must-Read Blog Posts

**Lake Theatre Closes for Renovations: What's Coming Next**

After more than 90 years of movies, popcorn and memories, the Lake Theatre has temporarily closed its doors as work begins on a major renovation.

**The World's Largest Fender Stratocaster Is Coming to Clear Lake**

The giant guitar will be free to visit year-round, giving music lovers, road trippers, and families another reason to stop in Clear Lake.

**Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens & Big Bopper Statues in Clear Lake, Iowa**

For Clear Lake, the statues add another chapter to a story this community has worked for decades to preserve and share with visitors from around the world.

## Get Weiss: Making the Most of Your Chamber Benefits

By Ashley Weiss  
Membership Engagement Director

If there's a "slow season" at the Chamber, I'm not sure we've found it yet.

Sure, visitor traffic through our doors slows down after summer, but behind the scenes, our team is already looking ahead. We're working on the 2027 Destination Clear Lake Visitor Guide, beginning to plan next year's events and taking a fresh look at our membership information and how we communicate the opportunities available to our members.

As I've been working through that last piece, I started thinking about the questions our team gets asked again and again. What does each of us explain regularly? And how can we make those answers easier for our members to find and understand?

One question we get a lot is: Can the Chamber help promote my event?

The short answer is yes!

Our team spends a lot of time promoting events, and over the years we've built audiences that are actively looking for things to do in Clear Lake. As a Chamber member, there are ways you can tap into that reach.

Start with the tools already available to you. Add your event to the [Clear Lake Events Calendar](#). Create a Facebook event and share it in our SHOP · DINE ·

DISCOVER [Clear Lake Facebook group](#). And keep talking about it! One post announcing your event probably isn't enough. Share updates, deadlines, behind-the-scenes peeks and reminders as the date gets closer.

If you want to elevate your event even further, talk to us. We have additional opportunities to put your event in front of the audiences we've built through our website, weekly events email and other Chamber marketing channels. We can help you determine what makes the most sense for your event and your goals.

This is just one example of what we're thinking about as we take a fresh look at membership: How can we make it easier for you to know what's available and what might be useful to you?

There's no one right way to be a Chamber member. But the more you know about the tools and opportunities available to you, the easier it is to take advantage of them when they make sense for your business or organization.

Have questions about promoting an event — or any of your Chamber benefits? Give me a call at 641-357-2159, send me an email at [ashley@clearlakeiowa.com](mailto:ashley@clearlakeiowa.com) or stop by the Chamber & Welcome Center. I'm always happy to answer questions, talk through ideas or point you in the right direction.

## Get Involved: Harvest Festival

Harvest Festival is almost here, and we still need a few more helping hands to make North Iowa's biggest fall celebration happen!

Grab a friend and choose a short shift helping with everything from course marshaling and information booths to axe throwing and more. There's a spot for everyone, and shifts are short enough that you can volunteer AND enjoy the festival. [Sign up to volunteer here](#) or call 641-357-2159 to learn more.



**DON'T  
FORGET!**

Preparation has started on the **2027 Destination Clear Lake Visitor Guide**, so please take the time to make sure your online business directory on [clearlakeiowa.com](http://clearlakeiowa.com) has your most up-to-date information. The guide is distributed to 40,000 people and the online business directory is searched more than 211,000 times each year. You can update and edit your listing by logging into the [Member Information Center](#). If you haven't logged in before, simply click "No login created? Sign up now." Enter the email you provided to the Chamber, and you should receive an email with setup instructions within a few minutes.

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

We're proud to recognize the members who renewed their investment in the Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce this quarter.

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.

## 40+ YEARS

Americas Best Value Inn

## 15+ YEARS

Hawkeye Auto Body  
Iowa State University  
Extension

## 10+ YEARS

Crafts United  
Currier Electric  
Destination Travel Services,  
Inc.  
Greater Iowa Youth For  
Christ  
Lake Theatre  
Molencamp Physical  
Therapy  
North Iowa Touring Club  
Sail Inn  
United Way of North  
Central Iowa

## 5+ YEARS

1120 Vacation Rentals  
Avion Azul - Willowbrook  
Mall  
CENT Credit Union  
Clear Lake Storage Depot  
Community Health Center  
of Mason City  
Duradock  
Edward Jones - Michael  
Hoffman  
Elderbridge Agency on  
Aging

Galilean Lutheran Church  
Gyro Place  
Harrison & Associates  
CPAs  
Hearing Associates  
Hertz Farm  
Management, Inc.  
Johnson Wealth &  
Income Management  
Just Dani Boutique &  
Color Studio  
Lake Fit  
Lakeside Inn  
Lakeside Landing +  
Kitchen  
Medical Associates  
Nelson Media Company  
NextEra Energy  
Resources  
Northern Lights Alliance  
for the Homeless  
NTI, LTD.  
Plain Ol' Pumpkins  
Porch on Main  
RION Equipment  
Salvation Army  
Skip's Kicks  
Ventura Gun Club

## 1+ YEARS

Bruce and Faith Carter  
Easiwash  
Farm and Home  
Publishers  
Fertilizer Equipment  
Specialists  
FloAesthetics  
Hart Bros Guns & Ammo

John and Karen Gookin  
Knudson Storage  
Lake Roofing & Siding  
Lake View Twist & Deli  
Lakeshore Glow  
Lakeside Brokers, LLC  
Mason City Community  
Theatre  
Paws at the Lake  
Reserve 173° Bar & Grill  
Still Waters Day & Scalp Spa  
Surf Market - Cafe du Lac  
LLC  
The Boulevard Bar & Grill  
The Mason City Foundation/  
The Music Man Square  
The Window Source of  
Mason City

## Welcome to this Quarter's New Members

**Lifewise Academy**  
Clear Lake, IA 50428  
(402) 218-0051

**Gammy's Cookies**  
4 N. 16<sup>th</sup> St.  
Clear Lake, IA 50428  
(641) 231-1642

**Rivara**  
444 North Shore Dr.  
Clear Lake, IA 50438  
(641) 357-4440

**Access Systems**  
1055 SE Olson Dr.  
Waukee, IA 50263  
(515) 987-6227

**American Cancer Society of  
Cerro Gordo County**  
Mason City, IA 50401  
(641) 424-5799

**KT Facilitation**  
Karie Terhark, Owner  
Britt, IA 50423  
(641) 860-0344

**Hagerman Pest Control**  
Jesse Hagerman, Owner  
Mason City, IA 50401  
(808) 694-0524

**Rock Steady Boxing Mason  
City**  
642 S. Pennsylvania Ave.  
Mason City, IA 50401  
(641) 525-2601

**New York Life | Eagle  
Strategies LLC**  
Josh Cowart, Managing  
Partner  
Clear Lake, IA 50428  
(515) 453-1314

**Drew Law Firm, P.C.**  
Tom Drew, President  
Des Moines, IA 50312  
(515) 490-4555

**Drew Realty**  
Nathan Drew, Broker/Owner  
Des Moines, IA 50312  
(515) 480-0712

**BS Removal Services LLC**  
Brody Frayne, Co-Owner  
Garner, IA 50438  
(641) 590-7459

**Anchor Stay**  
2700 North Shore Dr. #203  
Clear Lake, IA 50428  
(214) 994-6612

**The Gardens Victorian**  
809 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. N.  
Clear Lake, IA 50428  
(330) 553-9201

**Michelle Skarpness  
Photography**  
687 S. Taft Ave., Suite 5  
Mason City, IA 50401  
(641) 201-1850

**T&R Custom Tops**  
1075 15<sup>th</sup> St. SW  
Mason City, IA 50401  
(641) 424-0252

**Daily Practice**  
418 Main Ave., Suite 7  
Clear Lake, IA 50428  
(216) 526-8407

**Hair West**  
9 Plaza Dr. #2  
Clear Lake, IA 50428  
(641) 357-6111

**Proof Bakehouse by The  
Lake+Lucky Wife Wine  
Slushies**  
5253 South Shore Dr.  
Clear Lake, IA 50428  
(515) 571-4724

**Shoarline Outfitters**  
418 Main Ave., Suite 1  
Clear Lake, IA 50428  
(515) 290-8188

## News + Updates

### WELCOME, ERICA TWEETEN



Erica Tweeten, financial advisor with Edward Jones, is one of the newest members of the Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce First Mates.

Tweeten joined the First Mates because she enjoys meeting new people, building relationships and helping local businesses thrive. She also gives back as a Wish Grantor for Make-A-Wish Iowa and Minnesota and as a Sunday School teacher at Zion.

The First Mates, or ambassadors, promote the Chamber's mission among the membership and community. You'll find them celebrating member businesses at ribbon cuttings, groundbreakings and business events, as well as volunteering at Chamber events and delivering community calendars.

Please give Erica a warm welcome when you see her out and about representing the Chamber!

## SOCIAL MEDIA POWER HOUR EARNS STATEWIDE RECOGNITION

The Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce has been named the IASourceLink Resource Partner of the Year for its Social Media Power Hour program.

The award was presented at the Professional Developers of Iowa Conference on Friday, Sept. 25, in Burlington and recognizes one Resource Partner each year for going above and beyond in supporting Iowa's entrepreneurial ecosystem and the IASourceLink program.

Led by Tourism Director Libbey Hohn, IOM, and Marketing Specialist Maddie Anderly, Social Media Power Hour brings Chamber members together each month to learn about social media trends, platform updates and best practices.

"Whether social media is one of many hats you wear or it's right there in your job title, keeping up with it can be a challenge," Hohn said. "Social Media Power Hour gives our members practical tools and ideas they can put to work right away. Just as importantly, we learn from each other. Attendees share what they're seeing and what's working for them, which makes every session a true collaboration."



### IASOURCELINK RESOURCE PARTNER OF THE YEAR

Social Media Power Hour is held the second Friday of each month at 11 a.m. and is open to all Chamber members, from business owners who handle social media themselves to employees who manage their organization's social media every day.

**Please note: There will be no October session of Social Media Power Hour due to the North Iowa Regional Marketing Summit taking place earlier that week.**



## BRINGING BUSINESS LESSONS TO LIFE AT BIZTOWN

Real jobs, real expenses and real-life lessons were all part of the experience when Clear Creek Elementary fifth graders took over JA BizTown on Thursday, Sept. 24.

A program of Junior Achievement USA, JA BizTown gives students the opportunity to put classroom lessons into practice through a hands-on simulation of a working community. Students take on jobs, work together to run businesses, earn paychecks and make decisions about spending and other real-world responsibilities.

Several Chamber members volunteered alongside Chamber President and CEO Stacy Doughan, helping guide small groups of students as they took on their roles and responsibilities.

Doughan even put her professional experience to work helping a group of students run the Visitor Center.

Thank you to the many Chamber members and community volunteers who helped bring these classroom lessons to life for Clear Creek students.



## CHAMBER'S LAKE LEADERSHIP CLASS OF 2027 KICKS OFF

The Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce has launched its Lake Leadership Class of 2027, featuring 25 participants representing 19 Chamber member businesses and organizations.

The class kicked off Wednesday, Sept. 16, with City & County History Day, exploring some of the people, places and stories that shaped Clear Lake and North Iowa. From Frank Lloyd Wright to Clear Lake's rock 'n' roll history, participants packed plenty of local history—and opportunities to get to know one another—into their first day together.

Lake Leadership is the Chamber's flagship educational program, connecting community-minded individuals to the heart of Clear Lake and providing a behind-the-scenes look at the businesses, organizations and institutions that keep our community moving.

Running September through May, this year's program includes sessions focused on economic development, education, health and recreation, agriculture, government and more. New this year is a Nonprofit & Service Day in March, along with an optional North Iowa Day at the Capitol, giving



participants even more opportunities to learn, connect and experience their community in a whole new way.

## A SUMMER THAT FELT LIKE HOME

By Landon Jepson  
Summer Intern

As I wrap up my summer with the Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce, I am incredibly thankful for the opportunity to call Clear Lake home. I have learned so much through the businesses I visited, the people I met, and the projects I was fortunate enough to be a part of. From supporting Chamber marketing and communications to helping with TRI Clear Lake, this experience has given me valuable skills and memories that I will carry with me into my senior year and beyond.

I am especially grateful to the entire Chamber staff for making me feel so welcomed and supported throughout the summer. I am also thankful to the many local businesses and community members who took the time to meet with me, share their stories, and make me feel like part of the community. Seeing the success of TRI Clear Lake, even with the challenges brought by the rain and more than 450 athletes participating, was an incredible reminder of the impact that teamwork and community support can have.

As I head into my senior year this fall and look forward to graduating this spring, I am excited about what comes next. I truly hope to return to the Clear Lake area after graduation, so if you hear of any opportunities in marketing, public relations or a related field, I would love to stay connected and hear about them. I'm only a hop, skip, and a jump away!

And, of course, I can't leave without mentioning one of my favorite parts of Clear Lake; the famous corndog! It is just one of the many little things that made this community feel like home and made this summer one I will always remember.

Thank you again to everyone who made this summer so special. I am incredibly grateful for the hospitality, support, friendships, and opportunities I received throughout my time here. I am so glad I had the opportunity to spend my summer in Clear Lake, and I look forward to carrying these experiences with me into the future. Thanks for everything in Clear Lake.





## RECORD-SETTING WEEKEND FOR 10TH ANNUAL TRI CLEAR LAKE

The 10th annual TRI Clear Lake weekend was one for the record books Aug. 27-28! A record number of young athletes participated in the Youth Splash & Dash on Friday, Aug. 27, followed by a record number of registered athletes for TRI Clear Lake on Saturday, Aug. 28.

Mother Nature had other plans for race morning, requiring organizers to adjust schedules and plans along the way. Thanks to the flexibility of volunteers, law enforcement, Emergency Management, fire departments and first responders, the race was able to move forward while keeping athlete and community safety at the forefront.

Months of planning go into making TRI Clear Lake weekend possible, and we are incredibly grateful to the TRI Clear Lake Committee, volunteers, sponsors and community partners who helped make another successful race weekend happen.

Thank you also to the Clear Lake community for its patience with road closures and delays, to everyone who came out to cheer and ring cowbells, and to our athletes and families for their flexibility and positive attitudes throughout the weekend. We were grateful to swim, bike and run together in Clear Lake, and we can't wait to do it again next year!



## BUSINESS CONNECTION DAY BRIDGES CLASSROOM, CAREERS

About 60 Clear Lake middle and high school teachers stepped outside the classroom for North Iowa Business Connection Day, an opportunity to learn more about local career pathways and the skills employers are looking for in their future workforce.

The North Iowa Corridor Economic Development Corp., Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce and Clear Lake Community School District partnered to give educators a firsthand look at businesses throughout the area. Teachers toured local workplaces, explored career opportunities available in North Iowa and heard directly from employers about the skills and experiences that can help prepare students for future success.

Thank you to the participating businesses: One Vision, Curries, McKesson Corporation, Clear Lake Bank & Trust Company, Dean Snyder Construction, ATURA architecture, Cabin Coffee Co., Pritchard Family Auto Stores, CL Tel, POET and Kingland, and to the educators who took time before the school year began to help strengthen the connection between education and industry.



## CHAMBER MEMBERS CELEBRATE TEACHERS AND STAFF

More than 240 Clear Lake Community School District teachers and staff were treated to a hot breakfast on Tuesday, Aug. 18, during this year's Educators Appreciation Breakfast.

Held annually since 2013, the breakfast gives the local business community an opportunity to thank teachers and staff for their dedication to Clear Lake students and help kick off the new school year on a positive note.

This year, 31 sponsors helped provide breakfast and made sure every school staff member went home with a gift. Sponsors were also invited to sit down and visit with teachers and staff during breakfast, provided by Main Event Catering, with beverages from Cabin Coffee Co.

Thank you to the following businesses and organizations for helping us provide a warm welcome to Clear Lake Community School District teachers and staff: Kingland, Pritchard Companies, Clear Lake Bank & Trust, Bank Iowa, CL Tel, ATURA, Starboard Market, NIACC Pappajohn Center, McDonald's, Clear Lake Family Dentistry, CENT Credit Union, NTI, MBT Bank, First Citizens Bank, United Beverage, Crafts United Vendor Group (Loving Creations, Pampered Chef and Vonderohe Bees), Brother's Ace Hardware, Curries/ASSA ABLOY, Athletico, Colwell Motors of Mason City, The Summer House, Easiwash, Surf Ballroom Music Experience Center, Community Health Center of Mason City, Lake Pin & Play, First Gabrielson Insurance Agency, LifeWise Academy, Lake Time Boat Rentals, Kettlefield, Scooter's Coffee and North Iowa Corridor EDC.



## THURSDAYS ON MAIN DRAWS NEARLY 80,000 DOWNTOWN

Another summer of Thursdays on Main is in the books, with an estimated 78,600 visits to downtown Clear Lake over 11 event nights from May 28 through Aug. 13.

Each Thursday, Main Avenue transformed into a street party featuring live music, local shopping, food trucks, vendors, classic cars and family activities. Weekly attendance averaged more than 7,100 visitors, with the season reaching its high point July 9 at an estimated 9,000 people. Traditionally one of the quieter weeks following the July 4th Celebration, this year's event got an extra boost from the Lake Animal Clinic-sponsored Hot Dog Hustle, which drew 50 dachshunds—and plenty of spectators—to City Park.

The season wrapped up Aug. 13 with Back to School Night, featuring a foam party, dunk



tank fundraiser, live music and a school supply drive benefiting Clear Lake schools and local children and families.

Thank you to our sponsors, vendors, volunteers, downtown businesses, entertainers and everyone who joined us each week for making another season of Thursdays on Main possible. We can't wait to do it again in 2027!



## GOLF OUTING TEES UP A GREAT DAY

Twenty-four teams hit the course for the Chamber's annual Golf FUNdraiser on Friday, July 24, at Veterans Memorial Golf Course in Clear Lake.

The four-person, nine-hole best shot tournament featured games and activities throughout the course, along with lunch, happy hour and a Member Social to wrap up the day. The City of Mason City took home this year's tournament title.

The First Mates also brought back their popular "What the Duck?!" fundraiser, giving golfers the chance to win prizes donated by Chamber members while supporting the First Mates and their work as ambassadors for the Chamber.

Thank you to everyone who golfed, volunteered, donated prizes and helped make the day possible, as well as our hole sponsors: ServiceMaster by Rice, First Gabrielson Insurance Agency, Reagan Outdoor Advertising, MBT Bank, Pritchard Family Auto Stores, CL Tel, Farmers State Bank, Clear Lake Bank & Trust Company, CLB&T Insurance and Financial Services, ATURA architecture and Bergland + Cram.



## CLEAR LAKE CELEBRATES AMERICA'S 250TH

Clear Lake went big for America's 250th birthday, with six days of carnival rides, live entertainment, shopping, BINGO, the traditional parade, fireworks and plenty of patriotic fun during the 2026 July 4th Celebration.

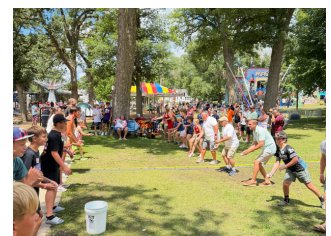
An estimated 161,000 visits were recorded throughout Clear Lake, Ventura and the surrounding area from July 1-6, including 68,000 visits to downtown Clear Lake. City Park welcomed approximately 22,300 visitors on July 4th alone.

Among this year's highlights was a special performance by the Waterhawks Ski Team, sponsored by Clear Lake Bank & Trust Company, helping celebrate America's 250th right on the water. The traditional July 4th parade drew an estimated 17,000 spectators, with Lake Theatre taking first place, Snow Construction second and Pritchard Family Auto Stores third.

The six-day celebration culminated with the Flashing Thunder Fireworks show over Clear Lake, providing a fitting finale to a milestone Fourth of July.

Thank you to our sponsors, volunteers, vendors, parade participants, community partners, City departments and everyone behind the scenes who helped make this celebration one to remember!

Mark your calendars for June 30-July 5, 2027!



# Questions? We're here to help!



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Thanks to our President's Level Members!

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