Western Iowa Development Association

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER





A WARM WIDA WELCOME, BEV'S PORCH | NEOLA, IA

Bev's Porch is a unique brick and mortar establishment that combines a charming coffee shop with a small-town shopping experience. What sets them apart is their emphasis on locally made products, including clothing, blankets, woodwork decor, candles, jewelry, and soaps.

The shop is dedicated to the memory of the owner's late grandparents, who passed away in 2020. Their grief inspired the owner to follow their dream of opening a store that embodies the warm and welcoming feeling of visiting loved ones. The shop is filled with the comforting scent of caramel and coffee, vintage furniture, and a genuine welcoming spirit.

Bev's Porch has been in business since November 2022, with plans and preparations starting in the summer of 2021. Customer satisfaction is a top priority for the owner, who strives to provide a memorable and enjoyable experience for everyone who visits. They are passionate about showcasing local makers and providing a platform for their talents.

We are so excited to welcome Bev's Porch to the WIDA community. Continued page 2.



Bev's Porch | 114 Third St Neola, IA 51559

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Their top-selling and favorite product is their handcrafted espresso drinks, followed closely by their signature Bev's Porch candle with its delightful caramel, vanilla, and warm coffee scent.

Memorable customer experiences include meeting new people and receiving rave reviews about the coffee and products. The owner cherishes moments when family members, especially those rarely seen, visit the shop. Interesting facts about Bev's Porch include the cranberry color in their logo, which is a nod to Beverly's love of cranberry candles, and the small brown table and retro chairs in the lounge area, which were originally from Beverly's sunroom porch.

The owner's best piece of advice for aspiring business owners is to utilize available resources and never give up. Remaining teachable and seeking guidance from small organizations, non-profits, and lenders can be instrumental in the journey to open one's own business.





Their membership with WIDA (West Iowa Development Association) helps Bev's Porch by sharing event information and posts on social media, spreading the word about local businesses, and fostering a supportive community.

Bev's Porch actively engages with the community by sharing other local pages' posts, welcoming various makers and vendors to be part of their retail offerings, sponsoring teams, and donating to fundraisers and events. They also host fun events like princess tea parties, craft nights, workshops, and kids coloring contests to engage locals. The shop has recently involved elementary students in decorating coffee sleeves, which has been a hit with customers.

SUPPORT LOCAL

The community can support Bev's Porch by spreading the word, leaving reviews, bringing friends, and engaging with their posts on social media. They encourage people to like, follow, share, and visit the shop to help create a thriving local community.





LOYALTY MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



ZIMMERMAN SALES

Zimmerman Sales and Service Inc. is a familyowned general contracting business with 61 years of experience, specializing in grain bins, buildings, electrical, plumbing, and concrete work in Western Iowa and Eastern Nebraska. Their motto is "We service everything we sell." The company is passionate about service after the sale and prides itself on being a full-service general contractor with strong ties to the local community.With licensed and insured in-house employees, they handle large and small turnkey projects.





The owner Kevin Zimmerman emphasizes the challenges of running a small business but encourages hard work, some luck, and dedication. Involved in the community, Kevin holds various positions, including Mayor of Minden and President of the WIDA Board. The business urges community support through buying local and emphasizes the importance of supporting local schools, churches, businesses, and organizations. The call to action is a simple yet impactful message: "Buy Local – Shop Local."





ZIMMERMAN HISTORY

Jerry Zimmerman, the founder of Zimmerman Sales and Service Inc, has a remarkable story of hard work and dedication. Born in 1936 and growing up on a farm in Iowa, Jerry learned the value of hard work from a young age. After serving in the United States Army for three years, he married his love and best friend, Alice Mary Blum, and together they raised four children.

Jerry's entrepreneurial journey began in 1962 when he moved his family to Minden, Iowa, and started a Feed Mill business. Over the years, the business expanded to include feed and farm supplies, grain bins, and buildings. In 1989, Jerry and his son Kevin formed a partnership and established Zimmerman Sales & Service Inc. Today, the business is owned and operated by Kevin and his family, specializing in a wide range of services, including grain bins, material handling, electrical, plumbing, and concrete work.

Jerry's commitment to his customers is evident in his willingness to go above and beyond. He would often work seven days a week, from sunrise to sunset, repairing and maintaining grain storage equipment for farmers in the area. Although not seeking recognition, Jerry's dedication and hard work have been recognized by his family and the local community.

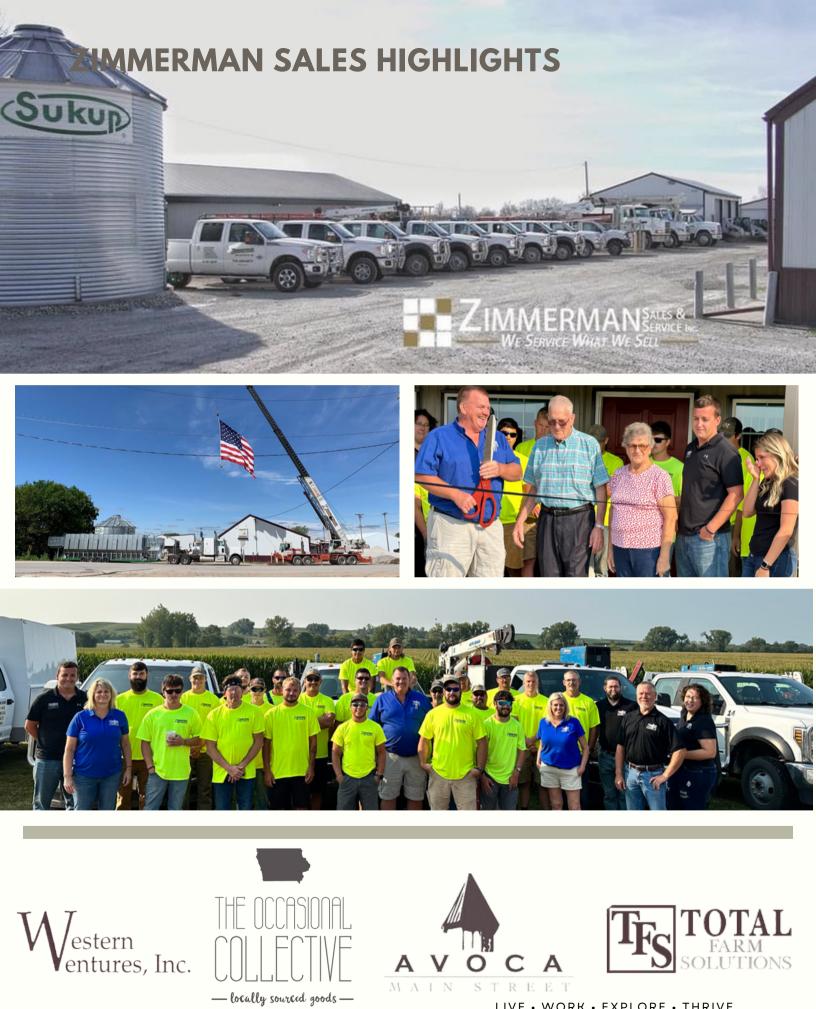
Jerry has been actively involved in his community throughout his life. He has served on the Minden City Council, volunteered at the Minden Fire Department, and played an active role in various local clubs and organizations. In his free time, he enjoys playing golf, traveling, and cheering on his favorite sports teams.

Jerry and Alice have a large and loving family, including nine grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. His son Kevin fondly remembers his father's tireless work ethic and commitment to customer service. Jerry's humility and selflessness are evident in his reluctance to seek recognition for his accomplishments.

Through hard work, dedication, and a commitment to quality service, Jerry Zimmerman has built a successful business and made a lasting impact on his community. Zimmerman Sales and Service Inc will continue to thrive under the leadership of the next generation, guided by Jerry's values and principles.







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Green Valley Inc. | Avoca, IA

We recently had an open house and grand opening for our new business, Green Valley Inc. located in Avoca. A long-time friend of ours recommended that we coordinate this grand opening Stacie. From the with first conversation, I knew that our event would be а success. Stacie brought energy, passion. professionalism, and excitement to our event and I believe it had so much to do with the success of our

open house. She genuinely cares for you and the success of your business. We are very fortunate to have Stacie Kinney within our communities. Her commitment to her work is a testament to a lot of the new growth within Southwest lowa. We are all very fortunate for Stacie's efforts and look forward to seeing her grow this resource within our communities in the future.

WIDA BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP

CIVIC MEMBERSHIP



- Help you claim a FREE Google
 account
- Offer Facebook groups for B2B networking
 - Rural Pott. Co. Boz Network Group
 - Rural Pott. Co. Dining & Drinking Group
- Brainstorming
 promotional/marketing ideas with
 you
- Receive WIDA quarterly enewsletter
- Advertisement of your promotions and specials.
 - Specials
 - Open houses
 - Holiday promotions
 - Specialty days (military discounts), etc.
- Recommendation of grants (if nonprofit)

BRONZE MEMBERSHIP

⁶100⁰⁰

Per Year

- Front page welcome in WIDA's enewsletter
- Listed on WIDA website as a member
- Listed on WIDA Annual Report as a
 member
- WIDA membership window decal
- Receive WIDA quarterly enewsletter
- Access to Ribbon Cuttings for special events
- Promotion of news releases, when sent in
- Event postings on WIDA calendar, when sent
- Opportunity to be a "Did You Know? Wednesday" business
- Promo flyers on our website, when sent
- Business-card ad in 4 consecutive
 WIDA e-newsletters
- Listed in our website business directory

SILVER MEMBERSHIP

Per Year Front page welcome in WIDA's e-

- newsletterListed on WIDA website as a member
- Listed on WIDA Annual Report as a member
- WIDA membership window decal
- Receive WIDA quarterly enewsletter
- Access to Ribbon Cuttings for special events
- Promotion of news releases, when sent
- Event postings on WIDA calendar, when sent
- Opportunity to be a "Did You Know? Wednesday" business
- Promotional flyers on our website, when sent
- Business-card ad in 4 consecutive
 WIDA e-newsletters
- 30 min. professional branding photoshoot with Stacie Kinney

GOLD MEMBERSHIP

\$ **1000**00 Per Year

- Front page welcome in WIDA's enewsletter
- Listed as WIDA website as member
- Listed as WIDA member on Annual Report
- Access to Ribbon Cuttings for special events
- Event postings on WIDA calendar
- Business-card ad in 4 consecutive WIDA e-newsletters
- Listed in our website business directory
- WIDA town landing page sponsor for a year
- Technical assistance
- Event organizational checklists
- Social media account
- Tourism venues listed on
 Travellowa.com
- Marketing materials upon request
- Front page WIDA e-newsletter sponsor for a year
- Grant review and proofreading upon request
- One voting representative on the WIDA Board
- 30 min. professional branding photoshoot with Stacie Kinney



NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

onla

B RESTORED

A Vintage Wonderland for Every Family

Discover the charm and nostalgia of B Restored, a family-owned business that has been a beloved part of Walnut, Iowa for nearly 40 years. Specializing in farmhouse primitive vintage furniture and vintage garden items, B Restored is a treasure trove for those seeking to add character to their homes.

But that's not all - B Restored is more than just a furniture store. Step inside, and you'll find a delightful collection of items to enhance your lifestyle. From wine and Tastefully Simple products to soap, candles, magazines, and new women's clothing and accessories, B Restored is a one-stop shop for all your desires.



B Restored | 216 Antique City Drive Walnut, IA 51577



With their passion for creating an inspiring experience for customers, the family team at B Restored is dedicated to curating a unique selection of highquality vintage pieces that bring warmth and soul to any space. Whether you're a seasoned vintage enthusiast or simply looking for that special something, B Restored promises to deliver a magical shopping experience like no other.

Next time you find yourself in Walnut, Iowa, don't miss the chance to visit B Restored. Step into this vintage wonderland and let the nostalgia embrace you as you explore the captivating world of farmhouse primitive treasures, vintage garden items, and so much more. Your inner vintage lover will thank you for it!

WIDAIOWA.ORG ------



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We are grateful to our city sponsors for their support and commitment to WIDA. Their generosity has helped us to reach new heights and make a positive impact on our communities. We are honored to have them as partners and look forward to continuing our work together for many years to come. Thank you again to our incredible city sponsors!

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AVOCA A Hub for Lovers of History, Art & Recreation



MACEDONIA Small in Size, Mighty in Personality



OAKLAND Home to the Freedom Rock



CARSON A Quintessential Main Street



MCCLELLAND May be Small but Big in Personality



SHELBY A Quaint Little Town



HANCOCK A Small Village with Big Business



MINDEN Just a Quick Couple of Miles Off I-80



TREYNOR Land of Housing Developments & Cardinal Sports





EVENTS

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MAPLE TREE TAP AT BOTNA BEND SATURDAY MARCH 2ND | 11 AM - 3 PM BOTNA BEND PARK



Load up the family and head over to Botna Bend Park in Hancock, Iowa for the annual Maple Tree Tap event. Learn the basics of syrup making, from tapping the trees to bottling the final product. Explore the syrup shack and discover how we make this delicious treat for our Pancake Feed every fall. If the weather cooperates and the sap is flowing, you can even taste the fresh sap as it flows from a maple tree! Please note, this is an open house-style event held outside, so dress accordingly. Registration is required, please register online to ensure that we have enough supplies for all participants. Registration \$3/person, ages 3 and under FREE.

While we would love to sell syrup, we currently use all of the syrup produced at our annual Pancake Feed. Any extra syrup we may have will be available for purchase at that time.

Contact Kylie Jacott for more information | (712) 828-2140 kylie.jacott@pottcounty-ia.gov

Annie's Project is the agricultural business education program that empowers farm and ranch women who want to be more knowledgeable about their agricultural enterprises. Course participants will learn effective strategies to make good decisions in the five key management areas of: financial, human resources, legal, marketing, and production. This is an 18-hour course, participant registration is \$75.00.

Register HERE | More event info HERE



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY Extension and Outreach









| | juli@prairiecrossingwine.com | S | 712.487.3812 |
|----------|------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| \oplus | www.prairiecrossingwine.com | ŵ | 31506 Pioneer Trail, Treynor |

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EVENTS

IGNITE YOUR BUSINESS - USING AI TUESDAY MARCH 5TH | 12 PM - 1 PM IOWA WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE 2700 College Road | Looft Hall | Council Bluffs

Using Generative Artificial Intelligence in your Small Business -Unlock the potential of Generative AI to revolutionize your small business operations! Join our workshop to explore how cutting-edge AI tools can transform the way you work, boost productivity, and enhance your business's bottom line.

\$10 Registration | Register <u>HERE</u>



FISH FRY | AMERICAN LEGION MONDAY MARCH 11TH | 5:30 PM - 7 PM TREYNOR COMMUNITY CENTER

SOUTHWEST IOWA MENTAL HEALTH & SUBSTANCE USE FUND EVENT WEDNESDAY MARCH 20TH | 7:30 AM - 9:30 AM IOWA WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE 2700 College Road | Student Center | Council Bluffs

Join us to hear from a panel of subject-matter experts on available resources in our region and how to navigate the mental health and substance use system in western lowa.

Information | Tickets HERE

Walnut Community Center

Saturday, March 23rd, 2024

Door & Bar open at 6 p.m.

Show starts at 7 p.m.

Concessions available

Must be 21 to attend

Tickets

\$20 in advance \$25 day of show

Buy Tickets from

Any WCCF Member Walnut City Hall

Rolling Hills Bank- Walnut

CONNECT WITH US

Carson Community Call to Action: Riverside Food Pantry!

Help us to fight local hunger!

Let's work together to stop local hunger, reduce food waste, and redistribute surplus food. Drop Your Donations Off at one of these Locations -Carson Community Center Lobby, 316 S Commercial St, Carson.

-Oakland Methodist Church, 200 N. Main St, Oakland.

-Oakland Christian Church between 10 and 11 a.m. on Saturdays, 603 Pioneer Ave, Oakland.

-If you prefer to make a contribution by mail, we can provide you with the address. Call 712-484-3636.





THE UNIQUE Boutique IOWA



RASE90@frontiernet.net

402-651-0652 (cell) 712-484-3969 (home) Serving Carson & Surrounding Communities for 25 Years

Randy & Susan Miller





Karol Calabro

607 Highland Walnut, Iowa 51577

> 712.784.3187 712.784.2369





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EVENTS

CARSON EASTER EGG HUNT SATURDAY MARCH 30TH | 1 PM NORTH END OF CITY PARK





FISH FRY | AMERICAN LEGION MONDAY APRIL 8TH | 5:30 PM - 7 PM TREYNOR COMMUNITY CENTER



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IGNITE YOUR BUSINESS - CYBER SECURITY TUESDAY APRIL 9TH | 12 PM - 1 PM IOWA WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE 2700 College Road | Looft Hall | Council Bluffs

Highlight the importance of cybersecurity, data protection, and the steps small businesses can take to safeguard their information. Learn how to protect yourself and your business from cyber attacks.

\$10 Registration | Register HERE

DO GOOD DAYS APRIL 24TH - 26TH IOWA WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Learn more <u>HERE</u>

CARSON CITY WIDE GARAGE SALE SATURDAY MAY 4TH GENERALLY RUNNING 8 AM - UNDETERMINED



Maps will be available on the city website, city Facebook and printed copies at the Carson Country Store the week of the event.



STALEY'S CHICKEN DINNER SUNDAY MAY 5TH | 11 AM - 1 PM TREYNOR COMMUNITY CENTER

Proceeds to help fund college scholarships for Treynor graduates.

Menu includes: (Staley's Chicken) 2 piece Fried Chicken Mashed Potatoes + Gravy Green Beans & Corn Dinner Roll, Ice Cream & Drink





Hummel¹insurance services

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Craig C. Hummel, CIC

142 Main St, PO Box 579 Oakland, IA 51560-0579 Email: craig@hummelins.com







Do you have an upcoming community event?

Contact Stacie at westerniowadevelopment@outlook.com with your information.

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EVENTS



WALNUT ANTIQUE SHOW FATHER'S DAY WEEKEND JUNE 14TH - 16TH

Get ready for a weekend of vintage treasures and nostalgic vibes at the Walnut Iowa Antique Show! Held annually over Father's Day Weekend and hosted by the Walnut Community Center, this event brings together hundreds of vendors from across the country. With unique collections waiting to be discovered, you're sure to find that perfect piece that speaks to you. Join us for a weekend filled with celebration, great finds, delicious food, and fun for the whole family. Make sure to mark your calendars and experience why Walnut, Iowa is one of the top destinations for antiquing in America.





RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY INFORMATION

CONGRATULATIONS

On your upcoming business milestone! Whether you're opening a new business, celebrating an anniversary, or relocating/expanding an existing business in western lowa, we are thrilled for your success and grateful for the opportunity to assist you in commemorating this special occasion. Our services for ribbon cutting ceremonies are entirely free for businesses in our area.

WHY HOLD A RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY?

This event serves as a significant milestone in the history of your business and presents an excellent photo opportunity to capture the moment. It allows the owner to introduce themselves to the attendees and the wider community, explaining the nature of their business. Additionally, a ribbon cutting ceremony provides a platform to express gratitude to financial backers, employees, family, friends, and business partners. We, at WIDA, can coordinate with city officials, invite our Board of Directors and business members, and promote the event on our website, Facebook page, and newsletter (if submitted ahead). Our staff will arrive with ceremonial scissors and ribbon, as well as capture photos to be shared on our social media platforms and in our next newsletter. We have a wide reach within western lowa, and we want others to hear about your business.

We look forward to celebrating this momentous occasion with you and helping to make it a memorable experience.



The Wild Goose Chase | Carson, IA

THINGS TO CONSIDER FOR YOUR RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY:

- Who will cut the ribbon? It is common for owners or top executives to perform this honor, but ultimately, the choice is yours.
- When will you hold the event? We recommend Wednesday-Fridays, during the lunch hour, late afternoon, or early evening to attract the largest crowds. It's also advisable to promote the event 3-4 weeks in advance to maximize attendance and exposure.
- What would you like to share before cutting the ribbon? You can express gratitude towards those who supported you throughout the journey, share the story behind your business, or mention any special offers or upcoming events. Please limit your speech to three minutes or one page of notes.
- How can you maximize the event? Make sure to invite your family, friends, and clients. Consider hosting a drawing or raffle to collect business cards and expand your database. While drinks, refreshments, decorations, and door prizes are optional, keep in mind that the ribbon cutting ceremony itself is typically short. However, your grand opening celebration with others can continue as long as you wish.



KEVIN ZIMMERMAN 402-676-9019 KPRENTALS@WALNUTEL.NET 202 SOUTH 2ND ST, NEOLA IA







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WESTERN IOWA DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Small Town Feel, Big City Heart.

Meet the WIDA Board

At our core, we are the voice of business, dedicated to supporting our members' success. Our ultimate goal is to champion and promote the prosperity of our communities.





<u>PRESIDENT</u> Kevin Zimmerman

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Stacie Kinney

MEMBERSHIP DRIVEN COMMUNITY GROWN

WIDA continues its efforts to engage members and the community through its website, social media platforms, electronic newsletters (print newsletters as requested), as well as email communication. These outlets allow us to remain on the cutting edge of digital communications as well as provide traditional forms of communication while serving as a voice for our rural businesses and communities.



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Mike Holton



POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY RESOURCES

ELECTED OFFICIALS

>>> AVOCA

>>> CARSON

Mayor Tom Bruck

City Clerk

Teresa Hoepner (712) 343-2424 cityclerk@cityofavoca.com

>>> MACEDONIA

Mayor Melia Clark

City Clerk Moriah Mahan (712) 486-2323 macedoniacityhall@gmail.com

>>> OAKLAND

Mayor Brant A. Miller

City Clerk Marissa Lockwood (712) 482-6811 oaklandclerk@frontiernet.ne t

Mayor Tim Todd

City Clerk Brianne Duede (712) 484-3636 carsonclerk@gmail.com

>>> MCCLELLAND

Mayor Mitchell A. Kay

City Clerk Denise Magnuson (402) 670-1062 magnuson1971@gmail.com

>>> TREYNOR

Mayor Allen Hadfield

City Clerk Michael Holton (712) 487-3787

cityhall@cityoftreynor.com ajhadfield@cityoftreynor.com



Mayor Vince Guyer

City Clerk Kimberly Gress (712) 741-5665

>>> MINDEN

Mayor Kevin Zimmerman

City Clerk Teresa Tenner (712) 483-2991 ttenner@walnutel.net

>>> SHELBY

Mayor Ron Kroll

City Clerk Chris Martin (712) 544-2404 smu2@walnutel.net





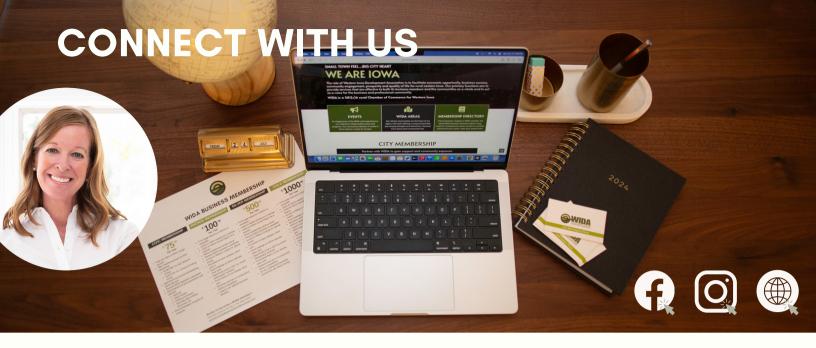
OAKLAND



Providing for the general economic benefit of Oakland, Iowa and surrounding communities since 1997



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WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

WIDA is asking our members to keep us in mind when you want to share your business events, successes and information with the community. There is no cost to you as a member. Whether it is exciting news regarding your business or an upcoming event, we will find the perfect way to showcase your information. Send a description of what you would like to share, and we will be happy to place your news in our newsletter and on the WIDA Facebook page.

Send your business news by the 20th of every month to: WesternlowaDevelopment@outlook.com to be included in the newsletter. For more information, you can also call us at (712) 406-6234.

Our members benefit from the visibility that we bring to the local business community, including opportunities to connect with potential customers and partners, as well as access to resources and support to help you succeed. Additionally, WIDA provides a platform for members to share their stories and experiences so that others can learn from their successes. We hope you make the most of your WIDA membership and that it helps you to continue to grow your business! 2.5 K FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS
 772 INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS
 1,042 NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIBERS

Your generous and ongoing support provides our 501(c)6 nonprofit organization with the resources necessary to promote our members and western lowa communities. advocate for a favorable economic climate and quality lifestyle, and promote overall tourism in the region. Building strong, thriving business communities takes each of us working together, and WIDA is proud to serve as a resource, connection, and voice for business.







The Marne Elk Horn staff had a great time visiting with our customers at the Streaming 101 & More Open Houses that we hosted in February. This was a great hands on experience for those wanting to learn about streaming, streaming devices and streaming services. Want to learn more about streaming and if it would be a cost saver for you? Please give us a call at 712.784.2211

Here is what a few attendees had to say....

I'm all about Marne Elk Horn and their Streaming Open House held yesterday. There's not a question they can't answer no matter how many I asked so don't hesitate to attend. If you have one question or ten, they truly are there and want to help us. Thanks Marne Elk Horn Team! Shelli A - Exira

The Streaming 101 & More Open House was a great event! We feel we got our questions answered! We do some streaming but it was nice and informative about how and what we needed to stream local content, things besides movies. Morgan was very helpful! Gary & Barb H - Elk Horn

Thanks to the staff of Marne Elk Horn for sharing some enlightening streaming information with me on Wednesday evening. My attendance at the Elk Horn open house was time well spent as I came home with a wealth of information. Thanks for answering my questions, suggesting ways to reduce my cable costs, and helping me to become more comfortable with the streaming process. Once again, Marne Elk Horn provided its customers with top-notch service. P.S. The cookies weren't too bad either! Diane S - Avoca



