



Chamber News and Notes



February 2, 2011

Belmond Area Chamber of Commerce

Experience China October 26-November 3, 2011 \$1,999*

This fall, Mason City Chamber of Commerce is partnering with other chambers in Northern Iowa to host a memorable 9-day journey to China for members and guests. This will be a cost-effective opportunity for members of our business community to become familiar with some of China's major cities, experience their centuries-old customs and history, and gain a better understanding of Chinese business practices and customs.

Participants will witness China's rapidly changing economy and expanding role in the global marketplace. We invite you to join us for this unique immersion into the Chinese culture as well as to take part in special meetings with Chinese business people.

A no-obligation informational meeting will be held in at the Mason City Chamber from 5:30 to 7 PM on Tuesday, March 29th. If you are interested in more information, including the exciting trip itinerary, please contact Trisha at the Belmond Chamber offices, 444-3937 or bacc@gwcisp.com.

\$1,999 per person, double occupancy includes:
Round-trip international airfare from Los Angeles
Accommodations in 4 & 5 star hotels (double occupancy)
Three full meals per day (including a Western-style breakfast)
All transportation within China (luxury tour bus, flights, etc.)
English-speaking tour guides

Additional expenses:
Airfare to/from Los Angeles (recent price = \$300)
Chinese visa--\$180
Gratuity for entire tour--\$25 USD per person
Single occupancy is an additional \$450



2011 Chamber of Commerce Membership Status

A challenge has been set forth by the Board of Directors regarding our membership efforts. Last year's membership total was 43 businesses/organizations. However, this year we are seeking to reach a membership of 86 members, double from last year!

I am not one to sidle away from a challenge, and have been working to seek out new businesses to join our Chamber, as well as reaching out to businesses who were members in the past.

As of January 31st, we have a total of 65 members, of which 27 were not members last year. There are over 175 businesses and organizations in Belmond, so reaching the goal of 86 businesses to join the efforts of the Chamber of Commerce is a realistic goal. However, know that I may call on your help from time to time, asking you to reach out to fellow businesses, asking them to join our efforts.

If someone asks, "Why should I join the Chamber of Commerce," feel free to respond, "The Chamber of Commerce and its volunteer board of directors are dedicated to strengthening the business climate of Belmond, enhancing opportunities for growth in the community by promoting local shopping, highlighting the strengths of the community by recognizing volunteer efforts, and emphasizing the many attractions small town living has to offer to incoming businesses and employee candidates."

Thank you to Dan Lovgren for helping with technical issues related to this newsletter publication. All PDF file creators are not created equal! With Dan's help, future newsletters will take less space to send and receive!





Crave Salon & Spa welcomed guests, friends and family to the Ribbon cutting event held on January 12th, 2011. After the ribbon cutting photos, the guests enjoyed some refreshments, a tour of the spa, purchased salon items, and booked appointments. Thank you, owner, Amber Swenson and welcome to the Belmond Community!

While Old School Records Management has been operating for a while, they were formally welcomed to the Belmond community by a ribbon cutting event on January 18th, 2011. Owners Terry Pressley and Tony Anderson discussed what their business entailed, entertained with some demonstrations, and provided some great refreshments! Thank you for your hospitality, and welcome to Belmond!



Food for thought:

Money will buy a fine dog, but only kindness will make him wag his tail.
Seat belts are not as confining as wheelchairs.
A good time to keep your mouth shut is when you're in deep water.
The trouble with bucket seats is that not everybody has the same size bucket.

February 9th – Ribbon Cutting Event at the Chamber offices to welcome Laura LaRue Photography to the community, 11:30 am

February 16th – Ribbon Cutting Event, Silverscreen Videos, 11:30am

2011 Belmond Chamber of Commerce Calendar of Events

Special Events

February 9th – Ribbon Cutting Event at the Chamber offices to welcome Laura LaRue Photography to the community, 11:30 am
February 16th – Ribbon Cutting Event, Silverscreen Videos, 11:30am
March 28 – Community Awards Banquet, Cattleman's Restaurant, 5:15-8:30pm
May 7th – Thanks With Franks
June 4th, 2011 – Inflatables Fun Day
July 4th – July 4th Parade and assorted activities
August 19th – Power Show Supper, Jenison Meacham Art Center
August 20th – Dog Days Triathlon Waffle Breakfast
September 17th – Fall Festival
November 25th – Parade of Lights



Monthly Chamber Meetings

Feb 23rd - Jerry's Restaurant, noon
March 23rd – Clarmond Country Club, noon
April 27th – American Family Table, noon
May 25th – Belmond Country Club, noon
June 22nd – Pizza Ranch, noon
July 27th – Casa Chameleon, noon
August 24th – Pizza Ranch, noon
Sept 28th – Jerry's Place, noon
Oct 26th – Clarmond Country Club, noon
Nov 23rd – Corner Restaurant, noon
Dec 28th – place to be determined

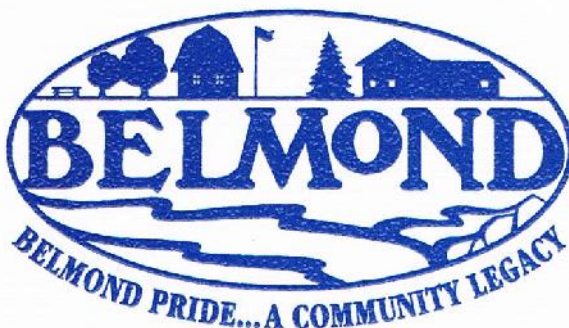


Board of Director Meetings

Feb 16th – Chamber offices, noon
March 16th - Chamber offices, noon
April 20th - Chamber offices, noon
May 18th - Chamber offices, noon
June 15th - Chamber offices, noon
July 20th - Chamber offices, noon
August 17th - Chamber offices, noon
Sep 21st - Chamber offices, noon
Oct 19th - Chamber offices, noon
Nov 16th - Chamber offices, noon
Dec 21st - Chamber offices, noon

News Flash:

Punxsutawney Phil didn't see his shadow today—meaning Spring is just around the corner!



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This editorial appeared in the Mason City Globe Gazette on January 25, 2011

Support small-town businesses
By JULIE WEIDE
Grafton

Small-town citizens choose to make communities what they are. The Jan. 3 story in the Globe Gazette, "Manly Council votes to not reappoint city clerk," reported that some citizens wore T-shirts stating, "Manly — a bedroom community that needs to wake up."

I wholeheartedly agree with their statement but from a different perspective. In order to make any small town thrive, it takes caring and involvement from the people who live there. This means participating in community activities and patronizing local businesses. Does anyone remember when Manly and several other surrounding small towns had a full-service station, lumberyard, hardware store, grocery store and many of the other amenities now only provided in larger cities?

Not so long ago these types of businesses existed. Corporate America has even made its way into Small Town U.S.A. in the form of convenience stores and chains. Manly now has a handful of privately owned businesses. Cities of any size benefit from businesses. Small businesses provide jobs. Revenue from property taxes and local option sales tax funnel back into the community. The more business a town has, the more real estate holds or increases in value.

If you are lucky enough to live in a small town, before paying for all of that expensive gas to go grocery shopping, dining out or ordering a pizza, getting your tires changed, etc., in a larger city, perhaps you need to look down one of your local streets.

If you are fortunate enough to still have some of these services in your town, they need you. Don't complain if another small business closes in your small town if you have never helped support it.

Meet the People

A legislative Forum will be held on Saturday, February 19th, 2011 from 1:00-2:00pm at the Belmont City Hall Community Room, featuring Senator Robert Bacon and Representative Stewart Iverson. Come prepared to visit with them regarding your questions, concerns, support or opposition.



Educational Opportunities

A Free event is being offered at NIACC's Entrepreneurs' Exchange on February 15, 2011 from 6-7:30pm, in McAllister Hall, Rom 104G, on the NIACC Campus. Dr. Eric Shoars, radio broadcasting veteran and renowned education crusader, as well as author of the book titled Women Under Glass: the Secret Nature of the Glass Ceiling, will be speaking about issues facing women who encounter the Glass Ceiling in their work environment.

A SkillPath Seminar entitled Managers and Supervisor Conference is being held on April 26, 2011 at the Clarion Inn, 2101 4th St SW, Mason City. This one day event features 10 sessions to help develop and strengthen management and supervisory skills in today's fast paced, constantly morphing business setting. The session costs \$149 each, or if booking for 4 or more, the cost is \$139 each. Space is limited. For more information, contact Trisha at the Chamber offices, 444-3937, or bacc@gwcisp.com. She will copy the brochure to you.