

Chamber News and Notes

May 2, 2011

Belmond Area Chamber of Commerce

www.belmond.com

When was the last time that you checked out this amazing web site? The calendar of events for the July 4th celebration is posted there, a calendar of events for the City of Belmond is posted on it, business listings can be found there, photos of the amazing celebrations, attractions, recreation, and more can be found there, and it is constantly a work in progress. You can also find links to other great Belmond web sites, such as the Belmond Klemme School District, the Belmond Community Center, Belmond Arts Center, Belmond Independent Newspaper, and Visit Top of Iowa, promoting area tourism. I LOVE the Bulletin board feature—it is like walking up to a bulletin board and grabbing a form or some other kind of notice. Take a coffee break, explore the website, and give me MORE great ideas on how to make the web site work for the betterment of Belmond.

Business is Beautiful!

Soon the downtown arcade is going to get its “facelift” and Main Street is going to look bright and shiny. What a great opportunity to expand that idea to all of the businesses in town! I am challenging each business to look at their entrance, sidewalk, windows, etc. and find ways to “spruce” up for spring. Wash windows, sweep the sidewalk, perk up your window displays. For each month of May, June, July, August, and September, we will have a contest to determine the “most Beautiful Business” and the winner each month will receive a dozen freshly baked cupcakes, made by Sarah Hansen of Hansen Home Projects, as well as have their business receive publicity in the Belmond Independent, on their web site, and on the www.belmond.com website. I will ask for businesses to submit their names to me if they want to participate in this fun (Cost free!) promotion.



Spring Fling

Thanks with Franks

Thanks with Franks will be held this Saturday, May 7th, from 11:00 am—1:00 pm, in conjunction with City Wide Garage Sale. Twenty seven businesses will be serving food, and another 7 businesses have sponsored the event with advertising funds. Take time on Saturday to join your favorite business on Main Street and around town, let them know that you appreciate their business, while they say Thank you for **shopping locally!**

Participating Businesses:

Accents on Main
Allen Home Center
American Table Restaurant
Belmond Independent
Belmond Medical Center
Bloemke Pharmacy
Crave Salon & Spa
DK Arndt, PC
Eaton Corporation
Fareway
First Gabrielson Insurance
First State Bank
Hansen Home Projects
Jasperson Insurance
Joe's 66 Service
Northwest Bank
Old School Records Management
P & G Market
PropertyLink Real Estate
PSI
Rehabilitation Center of Belmond
Shear Relaxation Salon & Spa
Silverscreen Video
Sparboe
Syngenta
True Value
Wright County Motors



Sponsors:

House of Treasures
Kinseth Plumbing & Heating
Klemme House Bed & Breakfast
Leiberknecht OK Tire
Steve's PC Clinic
Thrivent Financial
We-3 Catering



Iowa Department of Health offers Garage Sales Tips

DES MOINES — Garage sale season is under way in Iowa as shoppers seek bargains and sellers clear their clutter while collecting some cash.

While garage and yard sales can be fun and profitable, the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) reminds both sellers and buyers to also keep them safe. Buyers and sellers should be aware of potential safety issues with children's toys and cribs. Make sure items are in good working order. Also, check the online database from the Consumer Product Safety Commission (www.saferproducts.gov) to make sure these items have not been recalled due to safety issues. For example, some cribs with drop sides have been recalled because they can trap and injure children. “

Also, bed bugs have been making national headlines for months,” said IDPH Medical Director Dr. Patricia Quinlisk. “Mattresses and sleeper sofas (that have been slept on) are two of the main places these bugs hide out. If buying used beds or mattresses, check them carefully for signs of bed bugs.” Because of their small, flat bodies, bed bugs can hide in the cracks and crevices of mattresses, bedding, furniture, and draperies, and are difficult to spot without careful inspection. Small bloodstains from crushed bed bugs or dark brown spots from their droppings may be evident on mattresses. Because young bed bugs shed their skin several times, the “empty shells” may also be evident. While bed bugs do not transmit disease, their bites cause large, itchy welts. Although infestations can be treated by pest control companies, it's best to avoid selling or buying mattresses with signs of bed bugs. For more information, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/healthy—homes.asp.

Finally, some garage sales also feature food sales. Keep food safety in mind when buying or selling products. In general, remember to keep cold food cold and hot food hot to avoid food borne illnesses. For more food safety tips, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/food—safety.asp. —from the *Mason City Globe Gazette*, April 25, 2011



If you are a fan of Facebook, be sure to check out the Company page Small Business Saturday. They are a great resource for small businesses, and strive to support shopping locally. They are currently offering a promotion in combination with American Express: a chance to win a trip to Facebook Headquarters, and win \$20,000 for your small business. Be sure and check it out!

KIOW's Marketing Seminar will be held on Tuesday, May 10th from 7:30 to 9 AM at the Lodge in Forest City. Billy Solberg from DDS Marketing in Sioux Falls, SD will be back with great new information that can help any business do more business. If you want to attend, call us at 585-1073 by Friday, May 6th! Hope to see you there!

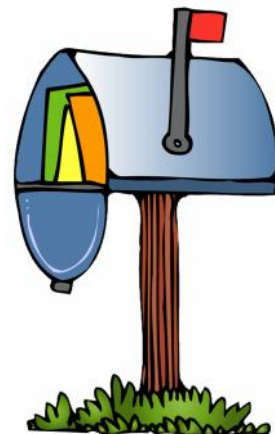


USPS Seminar: Grow Your Business Days

The United States Postal Service is offering a Grow Your Business Seminar, part of their ongoing series for businesses. Learn about EveryDoor Direct Mail. This new offering from the USPS is a cost effective way to promote your business in your area without a mailing list.

- Every mailing address. No mailing list. Saturate a target area with your marketing message by utilizing carrier routes instead of mailing lists.
- Save on lists and printing. No need to rent mailing lists or print specific names and street addresses on your mailpieces.

Seminars will be held in Waterloo at the Main Post office on Wednesday, June 8, 2011 from 10-11:00 am, and at the City Hall in Cedar Falls on Wednesday, June 15, 2011 from 11:00 am—12:00 pm.





Tourism Matters: Top of Iowa Tourism Celebrates Tourism Month

May is National Tourism Month and the Top of Iowa Tourism committee is celebrating and recognizing why tourism matters in North Iowa.

The Top of Iowa Tourism group consists of representatives from an eleven county area in Northern

Iowa including Cerro Gordo, Floyd, Wright, Franklin, Butler, Kossuth, Winnebago, Worth, Mitchell, Hamilton and Hancock counties.

Travel and tourism in North Iowa generates tremendous economic, social, and cultural impact. According to a report supported by the Iowa Tourism Office, a division of the Iowa Department of Economic Development, tourism's economic impact in 2009 generated \$255.39 million and supported over 2,280 tourism related jobs in the eleven counties represented by the Top of Iowa Tourism group. The report also noted tourism contributed \$6.1 billion in visitor spending to the state and employed more than 63,000 people statewide.

Visitors traveling the State of Iowa, who spend their dollars in area restaurants, hotels, museums, and retail locations, completed surveys while visiting the Iowa Welcome Centers. According to these surveys, the daily expenditure per travel party was \$227.38 and trips averaged 3.9 days in length. Vacationers made up 51% of the travelers with over 40% noting Iowa as their main destination. The average number of travelers per party in 2010 was 2.5 people and the average age of a typical Iowa traveler was 56.6 years of age.

The Top of Iowa Tourism committee invites residents to observe this important week by becoming a tourist in the North Iowa area! To learn more, including information on dining, lodging, events, recreation, golf, parks and camping, visit the Top of Iowa Tourism's website located at www.VisitTopOfIowa.com or follow the group on facebook at Visit Top of Iowa. Both sites are brand new to kick off the busy travel season.

County	Tourism Impact (\$ millions)	Tourism Employment (thousands)
Butler	6.82	0.03
Cerro Gordo	152.02	1.51
Floyd	14.65	0.12
Franklin	9.58	0.07
Hamilton	19.23	0.19
Hancock	5.05	0.04
Kossuth	12.5	0.1
Mitchell	7.86	0.05
Winnebago	9.07	0.06
Worth	4.79	0.02
Wright	13.82	0.09
Total	\$255.39	2.28

New Events for Fall Festival

Start planning now for Fall Festival—why? The Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a Pet Parade and contest. Haven't you always wanted to dress up your pet and show it off? Better yet, dress up WITH your pet! Three different categories for judging will include: cutest pet, cutest pet in costume, and best Pet/Owner Costume! Prizes will be awarded in all three categories.



The Belmond Lions Club will host a Music Festival and will be serving food that day, too. So there will be lots of great reasons to celebrate the start of Fall!

Fall Festival Plans already Underway

After posting the Fall Festival event in [The Grapevine](#), an arts and crafts event directory, I am already receiving reservations for booths for Fall Festival, scheduled September 17th, 2011. I know that many of you have hosted booths in the past. If you would like to have a booth, and want the same location, give me a call so that I can get it booked before I begin filling in with out of town vendors. Booths are \$20. If you need an application for the booth, go to

www.belmond.com, under the chamber of commerce section, click on bulletin board, and look for the squirrel. The "More information" tab will bring up a PDF file to print.



Only 4 more Businesses
needed to reach our
GOAL!



2011 Belmond Area Chamber of Commerce Membership Drive

ABCM Corp/Belle Haven

Accents on Main

Aldrich Tree Farm

Allen Home Center

Alliant Energy

American Table Restaurant

Andrews Funeral / Andrews Floral

Barnes & Louscher, DDS

Belmond Country Club

Belmond Independent & Millie's Hallmark

Belmond Medical Center

BIDCO

Bloemke Pharmacy

Casey's General Store

Cattleman's Steak and Provisions

City of Belmond

Clarmond Country Club

The Corner Lounge

Crave Salon & Spa

Creative Solutions

DK Arndt, PC

DND Farms

Drs. Snively & Gildner

Earl Kalkwarf

Eaton Corporation

Fareway

First Gabrielson Agency

First State Bank

Greenway Communications

H & K Plumbing & Heating

Hancock County Co-op Oil

Hansen Home Projects

Hogan Hansen PC

Houser, Berkland, & Simonson, Lawyers

Howard Enterprises

J & J Collectibles & Antiques

Jaspersen Ins. & Real Estate, LTD

Jazzercise

Jerry's Place

Joe's 66 Service

Kinseth Plumbing & Heating

KIOW 107.3 FM Forest City

Klemme House Bed & Breakfast

KLMJ 104.9FM Hampton

Kum-n-Go

Laura LaRue Photography

Lieberknecht OK Tire

Luick Corner Bed & Breakfast

Max Yield

Music Man Maintenance

Old School Records Management

Northwest Bank

P & G Market

Pizza Ranch

Printing Services, Inc.

Property Link

Rex A. Boyd Home Star Windows

Shear Relaxation Salon & Spa

Silverscreen Videos

Sparboe

Sparetime Lanes

Steve's PC Clinic

Syngenta

Thrivent

True Value

United Seating & Mobility

We 3 Catering

Winding Creek Gardens

Wright Medical Center

Wright County Motors

Associate Memberships

Belmond Area Arts Council/Lyric Theater

Belmond Community Housing Corporation

Belmond Historical Society

Belmond Klemme Community School District

Belmond Trees Forever

Glenn Meints, Lifetime Membership

Knights of Columbus

Krysilis, Inc.

Talbot Belmond Public Library

Russ & Lora Talbot

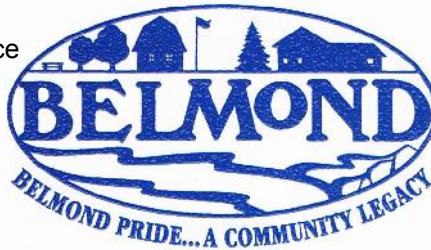
VFW

Wright County Fair

If Friends were
FLOWERS...
I'd pick
YOU!



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