



Mahaska Chamber & Development Group Communicator



The Mahaska Chamber Diplomats celebrated the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Full Bloom Brewhouse. Owned by the talented duo, John and Kristen McMains, this brew house is the culmination of a 10-year dream.

With Kristen's expertise in hospitality and John's passion for culinary arts and brewing, Full Bloom Brewhouse offers an incredible experience for all who visit. The building itself is a work of art, showcasing the craftsmanship of local artists and builders, adding a unique and creative flair.

Be sure to stop by Full Bloom Brewhouse at 1718 Pella Avenue in Oskaloosa to enjoy their cozy atmosphere, exceptional brews, and delicious menu. Watch special events on their Facebook page.



The Mahaska Chamber Diplomats held a ribbon cutting on Wednesday, December 18 to welcome Burrito Blast to the community! Jessica Baehr and Daloy Vehldhouse greeted the group and shared their story. They are located at 301 A Avenue East in Oskaloosa.

They are open Monday - Friday 5am to 2pm and Saturday 7am to 1:30pm.

Be sure to stop by and try their bold, flavorful menu — it's a blast of deliciousness you won't want to miss! Don't forget to grab a punch card when you stop by too. Their service is wonderful, and orders are ready to go.

Let's keep supporting local businesses and make Burrito Blast a community favorite!

Oskaloosa Main Street Celebrates a Successful 2024 Lighted Christmas Parade and Holiday Season

The 2024 Lighted Christmas Parade held on Saturday, December 7, was a huge success! Thank you to all who participated, volunteered, and sponsored the 37th Annual Lighted Christmas Parade. "It was a night to remember," shared Angella Foster, Oskaloosa Main Street Director. "Seeing the joy on people's faces, from the little children marveling at the stunning lighted floats to families singing along with the Oskaloosa City Band members, was truly heartwarming. The way our community and visitors come together to celebrate in our beautifully decorated city square is what makes Oskaloosa so magical during the holidays."

With more than 60 participating floats and over 16,600 people in attendance, there was an immense economic impact on the community. An estimated \$350,000 was spent on dining, lodging, travel expenses, and fuel for this one-night event.

This year's Parade winners are as follows:

- Most Outstanding 1st and 2nd Place Non-Profit – Mahaska Health and Shriner Hillbilly Clan 103
- Most Outstanding 1st and 2nd Place For-Profit – Mahaska and Musco Judge's Choice – WPU Theatre/Uplifting Puppet Co.
- Children's Choice – Chasing Positivity Dream Team

The week-long festivities leading up to the Lighted Christmas Parade bring so much holiday cheer. On Monday, December 2, Huk Visser and Halstyn Timm were announced as the 2024 Oskaloosa Main Street Young Ambassador King and Queen. The pair, along with nine other participants, raised over \$1,500. This year's beneficiaries are the Oskaloosa Early Learning Center and the Lighted Christmas Parade.

Oskaloosa's annual Window Decorating Contest had 11 participants. Oskaloosa Main Street volunteers selected MidWestOne Motor Bank, located at 222 1st Ave E as this year's winner for using festive decorations and perfectly matching the theme 'Twinkling Christmas.' The winner is awarded the coveted traveling trophy and \$50 in Chamber Cash.

Several Oskaloosa residents dressed up their homes to enter this year's Home Decorating Competition. Lori Oaks (Hawkeye Real Estate), and helpers drove through Oskaloosa looking for the best Christmas light displays. Each of the five winners will receive \$100 in Chamber Cash and a yard sign display. Thank you to the many sponsors who help make the Home Decorating Contest possible each year! Best in Show: Alvern & Jane Boetsma, 1201 Arbor Trace; The Griswold Award: Rob Lines, 304 C Ave East; Most Festive: Jeff, Virginia, and Jeremy Pierson, 1502 South 7th Street; Best Use of Lights: Mark Mauer, 2000 Carbonado Road; Best Use of Color: Ben & Mindy Hoskinson, 2116 Forrest Ave.

Invite family and friends to visit Oskaloosa. Enjoy Painting with Lights every night until January 5, 2025, from 4:30-11 pm. Grab a warm cup of coffee at the local coffee shop; enter the decorated alleys; visit the quaint little bookstore for a good read and explore the unique shops along the square.

Coffee & Conversation 2025

The Mahaska Chamber & Development Group is announcing the anticipated 2025 lineup for its Coffee & Conversation event, previously known as Eggs & Issues. This engaging series of informative sessions provides Mahaska County residents with invaluable insights to state, county and local topics, fostering opportunities for community members to meet, learn, and discuss subjects important to community improvement. Join us at Smokey Row (109 S Market, St., Oskaloosa) from 8:30 AM to 9:30 AM for these enlightening conversations. A special thank you to MidWestOne Bank for sponsoring coffee for all attendees.

The dates for Coffee & Conversation and panel speakers are as follows:

January 11, 2025- City of Oskaloosa and Mahaska County

January 25, 2025 – Iowa Senate #19 Ken Rozenboom and Iowa Senate #44 Adrian Dickey, Iowa House #88 Helena Hayes and Iowa House #37 Barb Kniff-McCulla

February 8, 2025 – Mahaska County Schools

February 22, 2025 - Iowa Senate #19 Ken Rozenboom and Iowa Senate #44 Adrian Dickey, Iowa House #88, Helena Hayes and Iowa House #37 Barb Kniff-McCulla

March 8, 2025- Mahaska Health, EMA, Sheriff/Police Department

March 22, 2025 - Iowa Senate #19 Ken Rozenboom and Iowa Senate #44 Adrian Dickey, Iowa House #88 Helena Hayes and Iowa House #37 Barb Kniff-McCulla

Please reach out to Deann De Groot at the Chamber with any questions about the forum at ddegroot@mahaskachamber.org or by phone 641.672.2591.

Do you have a business and want to be a part of this page?

**Contact us today
641-672-2581**

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Herald

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