

- The Mahaska Chamber Diplomats had 3 monthly meetings. They conducted 9 ribbon cuttings at the following locations: Oskaloosa Indoor Sports Complex, Old School Arcade, T-Mobile, Longbranch Tack and Supply, Library Makerspace, Scanlon Bait and Tackle, KCP Greenhouse, Tarbell's Barbells and Layman & Associates.
- Held a Spring 'Olympic' themed membership drive. In the 1st quarter we have had 9 new members including: Love Inc. Thrift Shoppe, Scanlon Bait and Tackle, Belina Bubban, Jeff & Vicki Van Donselaar, Main Wealth Management, Fox Trott Rides, Layman & Associates, Pat McCulley and Re: Generations.
- Held the Chamber Annual Banquet at Wood Iron Grille where 14 businesses/individuals were presented awards.
- Reviewed the Lighted Christmas Parade Economic Impact numbers from the 2021 Lighted Christmas Parade. The Economic Impact committee will continue to gather information for the Chamber's larger events including Art on the Square and Sweet Corn Serenade in 2022. See chart below for the impact numbers!
- Eggs & Issues was held the 2nd and 4th Saturdays at Smokey Row from January - March. Local speakers from the city, county, Mahaska Health, EMA, police, William Penn University and Indian Hills Community College were also invited to have a session.
- Partnered with Iowa State Extension of Mahaska County and the SBDC on a workshop on March 28 through Renew Rural Iowa for small businesses to explore their 'Journey to their Vision'.
- Assisted Barnes City on a Mahaska County Community Foundation grant for renovations to their fire department. They were awarded \$5,000.
- Assisted the City of Fremont on a Mahaska County Community Foundation grant for new street poles in the City of Fremont. They were awarded \$20,000.
- Planning for Chamber Scholarship Golf Outing on May 13 and Friday After Five events.



- The Chamber Board and Main Street Board hired Amy Brainard as the Oskaloosa Main Street Director. Amy started on March 30 and is looking forward to working with businesses and events in the community.
- A wrap-up meeting was held for the 2021 Lighted Christmas Parade and theme was chosen for the 2022 parade. The 2022 theme is "Christmas Canvas".
- Applications for Art on the Square and Sweet Corn Serenade were distributed in January. Planning for both of these summer events is underway.

# WELCOME LEADERS FROM ACROSS THE STATE

- Welcomed Joni Ernst on January 27 to discuss local economic development projects.
- On February 1 the Mahaska Chamber had a booth at the Legislative Showcase in Des Moines talking with our legislators about the importance of tourism.



# TOURISM

- Completed the 2022 Visitors' Guide. The guide was printed and distributed to organizations and businesses in Mahaska County as well as delivered to 26 visitors' centers across Iowa for a total of over 1700 guides.
- Attended the Central Iowa Tourism quarterly regional meeting in March.
- Reached out to 10 bloggers to see about visits to Mahaska County in 2022. There was overwhelming response so committee will review the bloggers and choose several to visit this year.
- Work continues on the Trolley Stop Alley. Funds have been raised and the design work is in place.
- Submitted two awards for the Iowa Tourism Conference to be held in April.



# BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

- Reached out to four firms for requests for proposals for the Industrial Park Transload Facility Planning Study. One proposal was received and acceptance letter was sent to work with McClure Engineering with the study work beginning in April 2022.
- Certified site weekly meetings to keep the project on track for the May 9 deadline. Environmental concern was addressed and cleaned up on March 24.
- Submitted RISE grant application information in partnership with the City of Oskaloosa and Mahaska County.
- Congresswoman Miller-Meeks voted for H.R. 2471, the Fiscal Year 2022 Consolidated Appropriations Act. This is a government spending bill that funds the government through the end of the fiscal year, and includes \$850,000 in funding for the MODES planning study.
- Received several business leads and work continues with 3 businesses /individuals on grant opportunities for larger project renovations in Mahaska County.

# HOUSING

- Additional Senior Housing Data was entered into the Excel worksheet so all information is gathered.
- Working with the Senior Housing Consultants on available lots in Mahaska County. Also interest from some developers to come to the area.
- Continue exploring with the city and county possible options for a Revolving Loan Fund.

# WORKFORCE

- Completed and distributed the "This is Iowa" publication in partnership with Opportunity2 and the Iowa Economic Development Authority. The insert showcases Mahaska County businesses and job available on the 'We are Hiring' page.
- Continue discussing the area of focus for the workforce committee.