



# Mahaska Chamber & Development Group Communicator

Mama Maids Cleaning Services, Stephanie Dahm (owner), Brian and Cooper cut the ribbon. They provide residential and commercial cleaning services in Marion, Mahaska, Jasper and Wapello counties with cleaning technicians in all the surrounding cities. Mama Maids is licensed, bonded, insured, and can clean as often as you would like, deep clean, or move-in/out. Text or call 641.651.0350 or find them on Facebook. Cleaning techs included in picture are Cami and her daughter Savannah, Aleah and Ashlyn.



Don and son Cody cut the ribbon at Van Donselaar Automotive, 801 High Ave. West. They offer oil changes, tune-ups, suspension, brakes, drive-line, diagnostics and AC services M-F 8 am – 6 pm and Sat. 8-noon. Call 641.676.5239. Also pictured are Dylan Van Donselaar, Reagan and Haley Van Donselaar. On a side note, Diplomat Kara Van Zee remembers this as her father's shop Van Zee motors and spending a great amount of time there. After Van Zee Motors, the Vernooys operated B & H Automotive from here.



On March 15, 2023, Mindy Uitermarkt received a \$48,000 low interest loan from the Mahaska County Revolving Loan Fund. Deann De Groot, administrator of the Revolving Loan Fund said, "Phil and Lona Brager have been a part of our community in the Oskaloosa Main Street district for 37 years. We are thankful that Mindy has decided to invest in Oskaloosa so we can continue to have The Eagle's Nest Christian Bookstore in the downtown square."

The Revolving Loan Fund is available for businesses or industries that desire to locate, expand or diversify their operation in Mahaska County. If you would like more information, please contact Deann De Groot, at ddegroot@mahaskachamber.org or call 641.672.2591.

Pictured left to right: Deann De Groot, Mahaska Chamber Executive Director; Phil & Lona Brager; Mindy Uitermarkt, new owner of Eagles Nest; Calvin Bandstra, Revolving Loan Fund Committee Member



## Oskaloosa Main Street Seeking Director

Oskaloosa Main Street (OMS) board is seeking an energetic, entrepreneurial team player for our next Director. The Director will work closely with the OMS board, the Mahaska Chamber staff, and community volunteers to center Downtown Oskaloosa as the vibrant heart of Oskaloosa and Mahaska County.

The Director is a full-time, salaried, management position. The Director is responsible for building strong relationships with community partners and analyzing, synthesizing, and developing revitalization strategies in consultation with the appropriate official and advisory bodies and coordinating their implementation. The Director reports to the OMS Board of Directors and the Mahaska Chamber Executive Director.

The Director must be an outgoing, analytical individual with the ability to organize. They must understand diverse perspectives and develop strategies for encouraging collaborative thinking. Excellent verbal and written communication skills are essential. The Director should have computer skills and be familiar with Word, Power Point, Excel, and social media trends for business as well as event promotion. The Director should have an undergraduate degree and/or relevant, proven experience in Main Street or historic commercial district development, retailing, historic preservation, or small business development.

For more information about this position or to apply contact Deann De Groot at ddegroot@mahaskachamber.org or call 641.672.2591.

## Oskaloosa Main Street sets theme for 2023 Lighted Christmas Parade

An enthusiastic group of Lighted Christmas Parade supporters met following a successful 2022 parade. To give more perspective, a study was conducted to estimate the economic impact the Lighted Christmas Parade has on Oskaloosa. Results show over 13,000 people were in attendance; bringing in more than \$224,000 through food, lodging, and fuel during this one night event. What a positive impact on our community.

To select the 2023 theme this year, a survey was created of three options as chosen by the committee and sent to Chamber members for an additional reach. The theme most voted for was "The Heart of Christmas." The 2023 Oskaloosa Main Street Lighted Christmas Parade is to be held on Saturday, December 2, 2023 at 7 pm. Let your imagination run and bring your parade entries to life! We can't wait to see what lies at the heart of your Christmas.

The weeklong festivities will include the Young Ambassador Contest, Window Decorating, Home Decorating contests, Gospel Christmas Concert, Merry Little Downtown Christmas and more. We welcome the community to invite family, friends and visitors to make a trip to Oskaloosa. As you visit the town, you can always get hot cocoa, apple cider or a warm Christmas cup of coffee at the local coffee shop; enter the holiday decorated Alley; visit the quaint little bookstore for a Christmas read; or shop unique shoppes along the square for the perfect Christmas gift. Come see the lights, grab your cameras, and celebrate Christmas in Oskaloosa.

As before, many events are held throughout Mahaska County in conjunction with the Lighted Parade. As you begin plans for related activities, please contact the Main Street Office to have these events placed in the Holiday Happenings brochure. Many volunteers are needed to make the event a success. If you would like to be a part of the planning, contact the Main Street office of the Chamber at 641-672-2591 or email chamber@mahaskachamber.org. Be a part of Iowa's #1 Holiday Event.



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