

ONAWA CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE  
707 IOWA AVE  
ONAWA, IA 51040  
712-423-1801

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- President: Curtis Sturgill, Morton Buildings
- Vice President: Rob Meyer, Bank First
- Jenn Collison, Director
- Katie Ramm, Burgess Health Center
- Lori Beck, Onawa Public Library
- Nick Holverson, Hoffman Agency
- Bryana Beneda, Minnihan Law Firm
- Jen Andresen-Shilling, Family Focus Chiropractic
- Elizabeth Sturgill, Monona County Fair
- Kenzie Moreno, Frannie's Cafe



# Chamber News

DECEMBER 2023

## Christmas 2023 Chamber Events



Due to the construction downtown, Santa will not be coming to town to turn on the lights on this year.

Saturday, December 2nd the Chamber will host a free movie at the Iowa Theater at 1:00 p.m. The movie will be Dr. Seuss "The Grinch." Remember, the movie is **FREE** but you have to buy your own snacks.

We are so happy the Theater is back open so we can offer this again.

Due to many conflicts for Saturday, December 9th the kids craft day has been canceled. A free craft to take home will be passed out at the free movie.

The Chamber is asking all businesses to get in the Holiday spirit and decorate their store front windows, outside of their business and/or the inside of their business. Seeing the streets lite up and business decorated will get people more in the Holiday spirit and to shop locally.

The Chamber will be giving away Chamber Bucks again this year for the Holiday's. While you are out shopping locally, write your name and phone number on a drawing slip and put it in the box at the businesses. If you would like a box in your businesses, please let Jenn Collison know at 712-423-1801 or e-mail [chamber@onawa.com](mailto:chamber@onawa.com) for a box to be dropped off. The drawing will start on Friday, November 24th to kick off Black Friday and Small Business Saturday and end Friday, December 15th. Winners will be drawn on Friday, December 15th at the Onawa Public Library during Chamber Coffee 9:30 a.m.—10:30 a.m.

# Why Should you be a Chamber Member?

The mission of the Onawa Chamber of Commerce is to unite the business community, to promote and support the growth, development and betterment of the Onawa Community by providing positive leadership.

The Chamber strives to accomplish our mission. The Chamber also helps to coordinate and to support community events such as:

- the safe Halloween trick or treating.
- Christmas promotion (lighting ceremony, free movie and free craft day)
- Annual Easter Egg Hunt
- Administrative Professional Day
- Community wide garage sale (Spring and Fall)
- Annual Chamber Dinner
- Monona County Fair
- Onabike
- Annual Chamber Golf Tournament
- Annual Swap Meet
- Live Health Iowa Walk's
- Producing a Visitor Guide to bring people to Onawa and Monona County
- And many others that come along throughout the year.

The Chamber welcomes new businesses to town with ribbon cuttings.

Chamber members are recognized through advertising, the Chamber website, and promotional materials distributed throughout the year. The Chamber is also on Facebook which allows events and information to be posted daily.

The Onawa Chamber of Commerce is often the first contact for future businesses or citizens. If we can't answer a question that may arise, we can get you to someone who can help. Welcome packets are given out to new members of the community through the City of Onawa office. Information is available for tour groups or potential citizens.

By participating in various tourism groups and activities, the Chamber is able to promote Onawa outside of our community to attract more people to Onawa.

Together we can promote our citizens, businesses and services. As a Chamber Member, you are investing in the future of Onawa. Please consider renewing your Chamber membership for 2024. Encourage others to join in our efforts by joining the Chamber. You can maximize your deductions for 2023 by renewing your membership for 2024 in 2023. Renewals are due by January 31, 2024. **Due renewal notices are included in this newsletter.**

The Chamber Board and Director are always looking for new ways to bring more business to Onawa so if you have any suggestions or ideas, please fill in the bottom portion of the membership form. All feedback is greatly appreciated, good or bad.

**Reminder that Chamber Bucks make great gifts for your employees.**

## Burgess Poinsettia Ball 2023

The Burgess Foundation Poinsettia Ball will be held on Saturday, December 9th at the Onawa Community Center at 6:00 p.m. The theme is Winter Wonderland, “Celebrate the Magic of Giving.” This year marks the 39th year of the Poinsettia Ball. Funds raised through this year’s Ball will be used to provide the Emergency Department a new centralized cardiac and vital signs monitoring system. The new system will allow staff to monitor all of the patients in the department at once. Ensuring a faster response to critical or life-threatening changes in cardiac rhythms and vital signs.

You can make a monetary donation, be a sponsor or make an in-kind donation. If you have any questions, please contact Bobbi Johnson at 712.423.9374 or [bjohnson@burgesshc.org](mailto:bjohnson@burgesshc.org).

## Friends of the Library Fundraiser

Help raise funds for further upkeep of your amazing Library. The next projects coming in the Spring of 2024 include a pollinator informational sign, story walk, and a musical garden. You can view items at the Library or on Facebook November 27th—December 13th. Bidding on items will start December 14th and will end on December 16th at 3:00 p.m.. You can bid on-line, call or stop in to the Library. Friends of the Library will also have a bake sale December 16th from 1:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m. The Friends of the Library will be hosting Chamber Coffee on Friday, December 8th from 9:30 a.m.—10:30 a.m. at the Library to allow everyone to come and look at the amazing items and make a list of what you want to bid on.

## Onawa Methodist Church Cookie Fair

On Friday, December 1st, the Onawa Methodist church will be hosting the Annual Holiday Cookie Fair. There will be boxed cookies, bake sale, crafts, lunch - loose meat sandwiches, pie, chicken noodle soup, cheddar broccoli soup and coffee. Take-outs available from Noon to 6 p.m. Box cookies will be \$12 a box. Come have lunch or supper and stock up on goodies for the Holiday’s.

## Knights of Columbus Toy Drive

The Knights of Columbus annual Christmas Toy Drive is underway! Donations of new, unwrapped toys--and canned or boxed food items and clothing--are accepted at Bomgaars, Fiesta Foods, Dollar General (2), St. John Catholic church and Zima Investments.

Additionally, there will be a breakfast on Sunday, December 10th at St. John church from 10am to 11am to benefit the Toy Drive. This free breakfast is a Christmas gift from the Knights to parishioners and friends. If you’d like to contribute a new, unwrapped toy or food item, that would be greatly appreciated!

All donations stay in the county and will be distributed before Christmas to needy children & families identified by West Central Outreach. (Cash donations are also accepted.) The toy donations are periodically picked up from all locations with the final pickup on Monday, Dec. 11.

## Santa Visit

On Friday, December 8th at 5:00 p.m. Santa will be at the Onawa Fire Station to visit with the kids and get their wish lists. The West Monona FFA group will be hosting a free will donation soup supper at 5:00 p.m.

**Grace Dance Company presents, “A Country Christmas” December 9th at 6:00 p.m. at the West Monona High School.**

## Calendar of Events for December 2023

- December 1 Onawa Methodist Church Cookie Fair noon—6:00 p.m.
- December 2 Chamber Free movie at 1:00 p.m. at the Iowa Theater.
- December 7 Chamber Board Meeting a noon at the Onawa Public Library.
- December 8 Chamber Coffee hosted by Friends of the Library at the Library 9:30-10:30 a.m.  
Santa will be at the Fire Department at 5 p.m. with West Monona FFA free will donation soup dinner.
- December 9 Poinsettia Ball at 6:00 p.m. at the Onawa Community Center.  
Grace Dance Company Holiday Production 6:00 p.m. at the High School.
- December 10 Knights of Columbus FREE breakfast at St. John's Catholic Church 10—11 a.m.
- December 12 Onawa City Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.
- December 14 Friends of the Library Silent Auction starts.
- December 15 Chamber Coffee hosted by the Chamber at the Onawa Public Library 9:30-10:30.
- December 16 Friends of the Library Bake Sale at Onawa Public Library 1:00—4:00 p.m.  
Friends of the Library Silent Auction ends at 3:00 p.m.
- December 21 First Day of Winter.
- December 24 Christmas Eve.
- December 25 Merry Christmas!