

Like



Chamber Views

July, August, September 2021 www.LeClaireChamber.com



President's Message

Kathy Anderson, President

LeClaire Chamber of Commerce

Welcome fall! One of the most frequent inquiries the Chamber receives this time of year is “when will the leaves turn color?” We wish we could accurately forecast that date.

The best we can do is tell people when fall officially begins and remind them that LeClaire is a great place to visit any season of the year!

We’ve learned a lot about forecasting these past 18 months. Most especially, how to adjust, recover and move forward. In the recent Quad Cities Chamber Annual Report, <https://quadcitieschamber.com/about-the-chamber/creating-a-prosperous-regional-economy>, President + CEO Paul Rumler said “we’ve evolved through significant social and economic disruption, which has created opportunities for growth and better times ahead.” We are seeing evidence of that here in our community. New businesses are opening, current businesses are expanding, a new housing development of 179 lots is on track, and our population has grown 25.1% from 3,765 residents in 2010 to 4,710 residents in 2020 (2020 Census Results for Iowa Cities, <https://www.icip.iastate.edu/reports/interactive/population-by-city>). To again quote Paul, “all signs that point to the beginning of a strong economic recovery.”

As part of the greater Quad-Cities, this recovery remains critical to our businesses, residents and visitors. Continuing to support local and small business keeps that recovery moving in the right direction. Thank you for that support. Thank you for bringing back our traditional events. Thank you for creating new ways to welcome visitors. Thank you for reminding our residents that LeClaire is a good place to live, work and play.

I often get the opportunity to hear touching stories of what it does means to live, work and play here. Stories like friends who for years meet every Saturday morning for coffee; neighbors who gather to support and pray when tragedy strikes; residents doing good with projects like “Buy Nothing LeClaire;” friendly competitions on the pickleball courts at our newest park; and business owners brainstorming on ways to make LeClaire an even better place to live, work and play. Thank you.

Keep sharing those stories with us. We want to hear about what it means to you to live, work and play in LeClaire. Send your stories to me at Kathy@leclairechamber.com. Follow us on social media and sign up for the Chamber’s weekly, <https://leclairechamber.com/subscribe-to-email>.

Check out the fall events in the Tourism section of this newsletter. Fall is a wonderful time to enjoy LeClaire, from a drive in the country to a walk along our beautiful riverfront. Join me in supporting small and local business on Small Business Saturday, November 27. But we don’t have to wait until November 27; we can do that now. Commit to doing one small thing for a small business each week – whether it’s a purchase or a shout out. Buy Chamber Bucks for family and friends. They make perfect gifts for people to spend a day in LeClaire – dining, shopping and supporting our businesses.

Thank you for your membership and continued investment in the Chamber. We stand ready to help continue to support our community’s growth.

See you on the riverfront.

Kathleen Anderson
President, LeClaire Chamber of Commerce
Kathy@leclairechamber.com

Colorblaze

Saturday, July 20, LeClaire hosted it’s 2nd annual Color Blaze 5k Run/Walk. This year’s fun family-friendly event was bigger, better, and more colorful than ever! People from all over gathered up their friends and family and had the most colorful day of their lives! Each person that registered received a t-shirt, grab bag, individual packet of color, and all the other colors their heart



desires! All proceeds from the Color Blaze 5k Run/Walk went to The Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital in Iowa City, Iowa. Their motto was, "We run for a day to give them hope for a lifetime."



**Join Us
for Sunday
Services**

In-church at
8:30am & 10:30am
Live-streamed on
Facebook & YouTube
at 10:30am

Kids' Sunday School
at 9:30am & 10:30am
Adults' Sunday School
at 8:30am & 9:45am

Asbury
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Bark For Your Park

In August, LeClaire was selected as one of 30 finalists for a PetSafe Bark for Your Park grant contest. The grant, which awards prizes totaling \$150,000 to 10 communities has donated more than \$1.5 million to support more than 70 off-leash dog parks in the United States. During the whole month of August, U.S. residents 18 and over could vote once per day, every day for their favorite community at barkforyourpark.com. To encourage voting, some local LeClaire businesses were offering incentives to customer with proof of vote.

"As LeClaire's Parks & Recreation Commission, we believe it is our mission to

provide beautiful recreational and green spaces for our citizens, including the furry ones," said Lauren Friedenber, chair of the LeClaire Parks & Recreation Commission. "By voting for LeClaire to receive the PetSafe Bark for Your Park grant, you will help LeClaire build the dog park of our dreams."

Finalists were chosen from a panel of PetSafe judges that scored each submission on the level of enthusiasm and support for a dog park project within the community and the impact the park project will have on the community. Winners were announced in September. Although LeClaire was not selected in the final round of grants, they will continue applying for grants to support park and recreation development in LeClaire.

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Great River Rumble

Sunday, August 1st, in Mud Lake Park, Iowa, kayakers and canoers started their week-long float down the Mississippi River to end up in LeClaire, Iowa.

They traveled about 92 miles down the majestic river. Each day they paddled through the river's sloughs and backwaters, and sometimes the main channel. They had to pass through several locks as well. Each day boaters would stop at small river towns and enjoy food specials and sometimes entertainment!

They ended their float with a Farewell Celebration Banquet at the Isle Casino Hotel in Bettendorf.



British Auto Fest

The 34th Annual Heartland British Autofest – Iowa was held downtown beautiful LeClaire on the levee Saturday, August 7th from 9-3pm by the Quad City British Auto Club. It was a nice breezy day for the car show, which displays some of the areas best examples of British cars.

Judging started a noon and DJ Greg Zirbes, who also provided themed British Invasion music, announced awards at 3pm.

They had awards for Top Twenty Cars and Best of Show.

You'd be **LOCO** to miss this!

BLUE IGUANA
Mexican Cantina

the-blueiguana.com



Iowa Tugger, Michele Walsh, of LeClaire, pulls against the Illinois side, Saturday, August 14, 2021, during the annual Tugfest event held in LeClaire and Port Byron. (Quad-City Times)

Tug Fest

Tug Fest was back in full force this year after having to cancel last year due to Covid-19, August 12-14! The Iowa Tug Fest Theme for 2021 was "Peace, Love and Tug Fest", and the 2021 Tug for A Cause was the Riverbend Food Bank. Riverbend is the largest hunger-relief organization in Eastern Iowa/Western Illinois distributing more than 2 million meals! Thank you to all who supported the Food Bank by purchasing a 2021 Tug Fest t-shirt. Two dollars from every t-shirt sale was donated to the Riverbend Food Bank.

For 35 years, LeClaire, IA and Port Byron, IL have hosted and competed in a 3-day event that is unlike any other festival. Within those 3 days, both cities pack in plenty of entertainment with things like; a 5-k Tug Run, carnival rides, fair food, live bands, spectacular fireworks, a grand parade, and the one-and-only Tug Fest. Saturday, August 14th, eleven teams of tuggers, competed from the levees of LeClaire and Port Byron and people from all over came to support their favorite teams.

Illinois was once again the winner of the Alabaster Eagle trophy, with a final result of 3-8. Thank you to all who tugged this year for Iowa and Illinois, we couldn't be more proud!

Live Music.
Every Friday.
All Summer.



*Lewis
Knudsen*



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Vettes on the River

Nearly 300 Vettes were displayed along the riverfront on a warm August 28 day for Vettes on the River in LeClaire, Iowa. The heat didn't stop event organizers and Corvette owners from all over the country from enjoying the all-day event to show off their pride and joy. Proceeds from Vettes on the River are donated to local Quad Cities' Veterans organizations. This year the event raised \$12,000 for veterans. A flag ceremony, live music and silent auction were all part of the fun. And many participants got a chance to ride on the Riverboat Twilight before the day ended. Thank you to Sherry Zaruba for organizing this year's event and to the many wonderful volunteers who helped welcome back Corvette owners to LeClaire.

Save the Date

40th Anniversary

LeClaire Chamber Annual Dinner
January 29th, 2022

Chamber's 40th Anniversary!

The LeClaire Chamber is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year! As we prepare to officially celebrate this milestone at our Annual Dinner on January 29, 2022, we're taking a look back and talking with former Board members. We shared our first conversation with you in June with a reflection from Dr. Rick Reed, former Chamber Board President and CEO/President of Adesign, Inc.

This month we're hearing from Steven Suiter, a former banker and insurance agent and a long-time community volunteer. Steven served in several positions on the Chamber Board. Now residing in Florida, Steven and his wife, Ann, recently spent several weeks back in Iowa as "tourists." They visited the Buffalo Bill Museum, boarded the Twilight with friends and ate at most of our wonderful restaurants.

We'll continue sharing these stories with you as we celebrate this year. If you have a story you would like to share with us, please contact Kathy Anderson at Kathy@leclairechamber.com

Reflections of Early Chamber Years

If my memory serves me, I became Chamber president in the early 1980's following Founder and first President, Bud deSilva. I apologize if these dates are wrong, but I think we found my successor from a noon chamber meeting on my boat near the dry stack marina. No one on board could think of a candidate until we encountered grocer, Paul Slagle, sailing across our bow on a small sunfish sailboat. I said, "That's Paul Slagle; our next chamber president, let's ask him." Paul agreed to serve for one or two years. I had served for several years as president and stayed on the board for many years thereafter. I believe I served every office but secretary.

One of the fun things we created was a welcoming committee called first mates. We dressed in a quasi-uniform with navy blue blazers and gray slacks wearing first mate name tags. In addition to ribbon cuttings, in the late 1980's our committee hosted a historic homes tour of all of the captain's homes on the national register. One year, my wife, Ann (who chaired first mates), and I staffed the Gamble Mansion on Wisconsin street. It was Mother's Day and the Quad-City Times gave a large write-up in the Sunday paper. The town was inundated with history buffs, and I could not believe our site hosted several hundred guests over a three hour-time.

We tried any ideas we could to market our historic town. Eventually with the help and vision of realtors, local business people, and the city's financial assistance, the town's potential grew to what you enjoy today!

Steven Suiter

Former Board Officer, LeClaire Chamber of Commerce

Retired Banker and Insurance Agent



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Huckleberry Park Ribbon Cutting

On Sunday, September 12, almost 50 people gathered to celebrate the official opening of LeClaire's newest park located by the LeClaire water tower. Huckleberry Park represents years of planning by the City's Parks and Recreation Commission as part of their comprehensive plan. Amy Blair,

LeClaire City Council, recognized commission members for their work in creating the park which included applying for and receiving several grants. The park has playground equipment for all ages, a hiking trail, soccer fields, four pickleball courts, picnic shelter with kitchen and restrooms. Watch for more developments in Spring of 2022 including expansion of the hiking trail. Parks and Recreation Commission will host another event to celebrate the completion of this next phase of work for Huckleberry Park.

Members of the Quad-Cities Pickleball Club joined the celebration, including incoming President Steve Morrison, to congratulate the Commission members on the beautiful new pickleball courts. A pick-up game followed the celebration with Mayor Ray Allen picking up a racquet.

Lauren Friedenberg, Chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission was recognized for her leadership and instrumental work in creating Huckleberry Park. Lauren's last day on the commission was September 12 as she and her family are moving from LeClaire. Thank you, Lauren, Amy, and all of the Parks and Recreation Commission members and volunteers for your work in making recreational spaces available for people of all ages in LeClaire!

VOTE



#1 PRINTER

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**We LOVE
LeClaire!**





9/11 Memorial

On Saturday, September 11, LeClaire firefighters and volunteers celebrated the completion of the 9/11 World Trade Center Memorial located on the east side of the Fire Department. The Fire Department became the proud custodian of an artifact from the World Trade Center in 2011. It is one of only two entities in Iowa which has one, and it is the only artifact in Scott County.

The memorial features an I-beam from one of the World Trade Center Towers, overlooked by a 7-foot statue of a firefighter and two standing 8-foot walls symbolizing the World Trade Center. The beam had been on display in the station's museum and is now on permanent display for the community and public to view and reflect on the sacrifice and tragedy of September 11.

"Now, people can touch it, they can feel it, they can look a little closer," firefighter Nick McManus said of the memorial. "I remember the arrival of the I-beam ten years ago when the parade passed by our home and we followed it to City Hall for a somber recognition of the events of September 11," Kathy Anderson reflected. "Ten years later, my granddaughter stood at the fire station on Saturday morning to wave our flags as the procession left the LeClaire fire station and traveled to each fire station in Scott County." The procession then returned to LeClaire for a 5:00 pm dedication ceremony.

Fundraising for this project is ongoing. A [GoFundMe](#) page has been organized by the LeClaire Firefighters Association, to raise the remaining funds for the memorial.



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FALL COLLECTION
Toasted Pumpkin
LIQUID SOAP

Now in Liquid
Soap & Body
+ Linen Spray

SHOP NOW

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The advertisement features a central text area with a light pink background. On the left, a bottle of 'Toasted Pumpkin' liquid soap is shown. On the right, three bottles of 'Apple' body and linen spray are displayed. A large, stylized 'Hello Fall' text is at the top, and a 'SHOP NOW' banner is at the bottom left. A large arrow points from the text towards the products.





Tourism Talk with Cindy Bruhn

LeClaire was back and better than ever this summer!

Our new first Friday of the month event called Friday Night LIVE in LeClaire has exceeded our expectations! So much fun in LeClaire with 8 live music venues (most outdoors), shops open late, and specials at the bars and restaurants went all summer. We definitely plan on continuing through the whole year!

We enjoyed wine tasting (including at the new Olathea Creek Winery) and the 4th Annual Food Truck Fight. The 34th annual Tug Fest was August 12-14. Iowa lost, but we still have the best party with a hardworking committee and helpers that put on a fantastic event including, carnival, vendors, parade, fireworks, live music, tug-of-war, and much more! The LeClaire Civic Club does a great job providing breakfast and Bingo. It is a great community festival that attracts people from far away, too!

During August, we also had the Heartland British Auto Fest with great weather and turnout, and the very popular Vettes on the River the Corvettes overflowing the Levee area! The Vettes on the River committee was thrilled to donate \$12,000 to local veterans thanks to their hard work and the participation of everyone who attended.

The Crane & Pelican Café's live Jazz was so well-received that they are continuing it every Thursday and Friday night through the end of the year! Be sure and grab a reservation and enjoy.

The wonderful new Mississippi River Distilling Company Celebration Center opened on August 1 and has hosted many great events already! It is a great addition to downtown LeClaire.

As if that wasn't enough, get ready for an equally exciting fall and winter! Riverboat Twilight cruises continue through October, LeClaire Fall Fest

(formally Apple Fest) is on October 10, and Witches' Walk is on October 30.

In November we celebrate Shop Small as we kick off the holiday season. Look for details on Christmas in LeClaire elsewhere in this newsletter.

There is so much fun to be had (including great shopping, dining, and touring) that I can't mention everything here. If you want to keep updated on all the great events going on in LeClaire, you can go to www.visitleclaire.com and submit your email address to receive our e-news that goes out every month or check out our website anytime. You can "Like" us on Facebook (LeClaire, Iowa), too, to see daily updates and find us on Twitter and Instagram.

If you want to be part of the excitement and volunteer at the LeClaire Information Center, please contact me at info@visitleclaire.com . We have a lot of fun!

Thank you for your interest in LeClaire!
Cindy Bruhn, LeClaire Tourism Manager



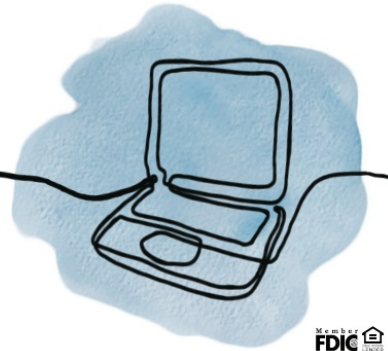


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Join the Chamber for 2021!

Whether you own or manage a business, provide a service, or just want to be involved in your community, we invite you to join the LeClaire Chamber of Commerce! Go to our website, www.leclairechamber.com to join and to learn of all the many benefits of being a member and see the directory of our many current members – many are your friends and neighbors. Join us!

Mission Statement: The LeClaire Chamber of Commerce is a voluntary partnership of area businesses, organizations, and individuals working together to build a healthy economy while promoting and nurturing the quality of life in historic LeClaire.

What are your 2021 goals? How are you going to get there? How are you marketing your business? Are you taking full advantage of your Chamber membership? Joining the Chamber is an economical way to promote your products and services. As part of your membership, you receive these benefits:

- Listing
on
the
Chamber
website
with
weblinks
to
all

member
businesses

- Promoting
your
business
through
Facebook,
website,
and
email
- Celebrating
your
events
with
new
and
existing
businesses
- Celebrating
with
new
and
existing
businesses
with
ribbon
cuttings
- Staying
up
to
date
with
Chamber
news,
community
events,
and
volunteer
opportunities
and
advertise
your
business
via
the
weekly
email,
“Friday
Announcements”
- Referring
of

Chamber
members
in
response
to
inquiries

- Participating
in
Chamber
Bucks
Program
to
promote
patronage
of
local
businesses
- Monthly
events:
networking
and
Economic
Development
meetings

Your membership is an investment in your business and the LeClaire community. Thank You!



Welcome New Chamber Members for 2021!

Rising Tide Boutique

Rising Tide boutique is a contemporary women's clothing boutique in LeClaire, Iowa and Port Byron, Illinois. They provide a personalized shopping experience to make customers feel confident in the clothes they've chosen! If you don't want to dress like a teenager, but aren't quite ready for the stuff your grandma

used to wear, they've got the answer! They have fun and unique prints in styles that won't make you feel like you walked into the wrong store.

[Visit their website](#)

[Follow them on Facebook](#)

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[Visit their website](#)

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tim.lane@edwardjones.com

Ribbon Cuttings

The LeClaire Chamber of Commerce officially welcomed and held a Ribbon Cutting for [Rising Tide Boutique](#) on July 1st, 2021 at their new downtown LeClaire location. They specialize in contemporary women's clothing and provide a personalized shopping experience.

The LeClaire Chamber of Commerce officially welcomed and held a Ribbon Cutting for the [Mississippi River Distilling Company](#) and Celebration Center on July 26th, 2021. The Celebration Center is a multi-level space that can be used for many different events and functions. The space was certainly made for celebrating – it features a rooftop patio that over looks the river and has its own bar and restrooms, a main floor with bar and seating space for 150 guests, and a walk-out basement with industrial kitchen and conference room with hardwood tables made from the original building. Visit their website for more information on how to reserve this space!

Networking Events for 2021

Oct. 12th Breakfast- 8am McDonalds

Nov. 9th Lunch - Noon Crane & Pelican

Dec. 14th Evening – 5:30 Mississippi River Distillery

Upcoming Events

Fall Fest – October 10th from 11-4pm on the LeClaire Levee

Shop Small Saturday – Saturday, November 27th

Ugly Christmas Sweater 5k – Saturday, December 4th at 3:30pm

Christmas in LeClaire – December 3-5th

Annual Dinner – January 29th





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Action Coach-	The Doering Team	LeClaire Masonic Snow Lodge #44	Orange Door Studios	Zarubas Salon & Day Spa
Marcia Erickson	Dwellings	LeClaire Nutrition	Our Lady of the River Catholic Church	Zion Lutheran Church
Antique Archaeology	Eastern Iowa Soft Water	LeClaire River Loft & Chateau	Our Savior Presbyterian Church	
Asbury United Methodist Church	Electronic Engineering	Lillie & Pine Natural Skin Care	Pleasant Valley Community School District	
Associated Insurance Counselors	Enright's LeClaire Super Wash	Locals Love Us- Quad Cities	Rising Tide Boutique	Individual Members
Associated Real Estate Counselors	First Central State Bank	McDonald's	Riverbend Signworks	Anderson, Kathleen
Bela	First Presbyterian Church	MedicEMS	Riverboat Twilight	Bloom, Bill & Ruth
Big Dave & Holly's	FitRX	MidAmerican Energy	Riverside Family Eye Care	Cournoyer, Chris
Black Hawk Bank & Trust	Genesis Physical Therapy	Mindfire Communications	Riverview Dental Specialist	Fah, Karree
Blue Iguana, The	Granite Exact	Minuteman Press of Davenport	River Valley Optimist Club	Garrison, Teresa
Buffalo Bill Museum	Grasshoppers Gift Shop	Mississippi Cottage Antiques	River View Lodge	Parris, MaryAnna
City of LeClaire	Grasshoppers Guest Houses One & Two	Mississippi River Distilling Company, LLC.	Sertoma Centre, Inc.	Smith, Debbie
Cities Insurance Group	Haffarman & Associates LLC	Mississippi Valley Workforce Development Board, SEIRPC.	Steventon's	
Cody Road Coffee	Heather Faris-Navigate Realty	Money Matters, Inc.	Sycamore Veterinary Services	
Crane & Pelican Cafe	Here's the Scoop	Murf's Turf, LLC.	Tim Lane-Edward Jones	
Dahl Ford Davenport, Inc.	Holiday Inn Express		Two Gems	
Davenport Country Club	Kautz Chiropractic		Visit QC	
Decades	Knight Chiropractic & Functional Health			
Dirty Water Music	LeClaire Civic Club			
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