

Chamber Connection

118 West College Drive • 507-532-4484

www.marshallmn.org

MARSHALL AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CONNECTION TO
LOCAL BUSINESSES, PUBLIC POLICY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY EVENTS.

Chamber Office Hours: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.*

*However, office hours will fluctuate depending on meetings and prior commitments. Please call ahead to make arrangements.



**Brad Gruhot,
Chamber President**

Shopping Local this Christmas season

It's probably not a surprise to you that I am writing about the importance of shopping local this Holiday season.

More and more you hear online companies like Amazon marketing ways to shop with them and this year is no different. I hear from our businesses in town that people are getting more and more comfortable with shopping online because once they get home, they have

no desire to get out and shop. This mentality isn't helpful to the local economy.

Let's think about the perks of shopping local:

- When you personally know the people behind the business where you're buying local products and services, you enjoy a connection you would not otherwise have. Along with the rest of the community, you celebrate when a favorite local business succeeds, and you mourn when it's forced to shut its doors. These local businesses rely on you, just as you should rely on them!

- When you buy local, significantly more of that money stays in the community. In fact, for every \$100 spent at a local business, \$68 remains in the city. Do you know how much stays in the City when you buy at Amazon?

- If you've ever dealt with a large corporation, you know getting help can be a nightmare. You'll call a 1-800 number, only to be transferred seven times and put on hold. Even when you speak to a customer service representative, that person is so far removed from the decision-making process, there's little concern that the company will lose you as a customer. When you shop local, the business owner is usually directly connected to every employee in the store. That leads to a personal approach that often means any problem you have is taken seriously.

- Having the owner nearby also means that owner personally knows his customers. They know the products you buy or the services you request on a regular basis and can tailor services to make your experience even better. Buying local

has benefits beyond mere convenience. When you support local business owners, you get a better level of service, as well as helping make your community a better place to live. This is in addition to the health benefits and access to unique products that you usually can't find online.

Did you know that four new businesses just popped up on 3rd Street in Marshall? Did you know that as you walk Downtown, everything you need for shopping is within walking distance? We have amazing big box stores mixed in with local shops out at the intersection of Highway 59 & 23. Although there isn't a lot in the Mall, there are some great shops there as well if you check them out. Drive down College Drive and find what you need! Have furniture needs? Look no further than

Marshall and all the furniture stores we have here. Buying jewelry for your loved ones? We have two amazing stores that can take care of you.

While you're out, be sure to have breakfast, lunch & supper. Our restaurants all rely on you too.

Thanks for shopping local this Holiday Season. Go to our website at www.marshallmn.org to see who our members are. They will also be listed here next Saturday, which is Small Business Saturday.

One last thing, today is Give to the Max Day. Be sure to support your local non-profits as well.

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ANNUAL AWARDS:



Thanks to Cal Brink, who has been the Chamber/CVB and EDA Executive Director for almost 10 years. We appreciate all you did for the Chamber and Marshall to help us grow to where we are today!

Thanks for your time, Cal!



Thanks to our Exiting Board Members:
Kris Carrow, Jeremy Gossen, Roger Evert,
Mary Fischer and Lucas Hilgemann



Brad Meulebroeck
Rookie of the Year



Darrell Wiener
All Star Award



Hitching Post
Business of the Year



Kris Carrow
Volunteer of the Year



Lionel Bolden
All Star Award



Prairie Home Hospice
Non Profit of the Year

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AMBASSADOR VISITS



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(507) 591-5218



Nessa's Natural's
1st Dollar Award
105 North 3rd Street
(507) 476-9009



Nettie's
1st Dollar Award
114 North 3rd Street-Suite A
(507) 337-9280

TASTE OF MARSHALL AWARD WINNERS

Best Product

1st Place: Hitching Post-Ribs

2nd Place: Bello Cucina-Lobster & Crab Cannelloni

Best Booth Display

1st Place: Hitching Post

2nd Place: Main-Stay Cafe

Most Unique Item

1st Place: The Gym-Tator Tot Hotdish Pizza

2nd Place: Marshall Golf Club -

Cranberry & Rosemary Bruschetta

NEW MEMBERS

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